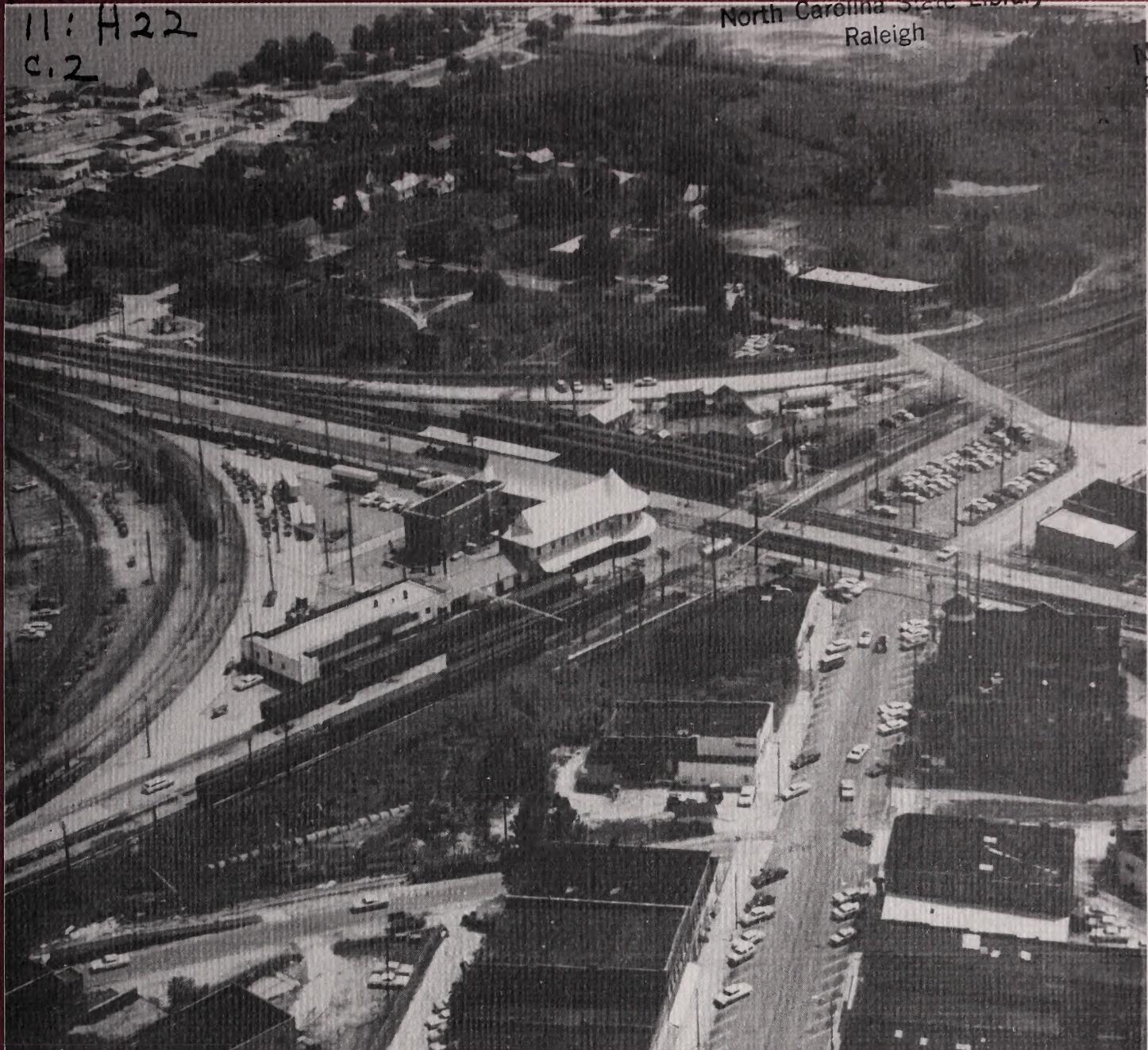


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# COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

**HAMLET, N.C.**



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# **COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET**

**HAMLET, N.C.**

The preparation of this report was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the provision of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

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# **COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN**



## INTRODUCTION

In February, 1966, the first Hamlet 701 planning funds were received and the first planning contract with the Division of Community Planning was inaugurated. Among other studies completed under that contract was a Land Development Plan which was published in September, 1967. The Land Development Plan set forth a generalized plan for urban development in Hamlet and its one-mile fringe. All additional studies completed concurrently or since that time have been a complement to the Land Development Plan.

The Community Facilities Plan and the Capital Improvements Budget are vital supplements to the Land Development Plan because they indicate the future scope of such vital community services as water, sewerage, police and fire protection. This scope is based on urban land uses and population trends outlined in the Land Development Plan and the Population and Economy Study.

## METHODOLOGY

Community facilities should be planned in accordance with the anticipated growth or decline of the population in the city. In Hamlet's case, both economic growth already taking place in the planning area, and the result of future annexations, must be taken into account. Therefore, it would be prudent to use the upper range of population projection figures cited in the 1966 Population and Economy Study:

1960 U.S. Census:	4,460
1970 Estimate:	4,800
1975 Projection:	5,500
1980 Projection:	5,800

Three steps were utilized, for the most part, in planning for each facility in Hamlet:

1. Survey of Existing Facilities. Field observation of each facility, along with interviews with department heads and other personnel, were utilized in gathering correct information as to the quantity and quality of each facility.
2. Analysis. Each facility was then evaluated using various local, state, and federal standards (in many cases adapting them to local situations). In addition, local officials were asked for the long range aims of their departments and as a consequence indicated the assets and liabilities of various facilities. Finally, several professional consultants were asked to lend their expertise regarding adequacy of facilities.

Some facilities were analyzed for other considerations than the following, but these are the primary areas of evaluation for each facility:

- 1) Spacial considerations -- Is the site or building spacious enough for current or projected use?
- 2) Locational considerations -- Is the site convenient for its users? Is it located for maximum efficiency? Is it located in conformance with other land uses?
- 3) Structural considerations - Is the system or building physically sound?
- 4) Functional considerations - Does the system operate properly? Is the need met that it was intended for?

3. Recommendations. The final step in preparing the plan was to make recommendations that are designed to render the planning area ready for urbanization as it occurs.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

These studies were prepared by the Hamlet Planning Board as their recommendations to the Hamlet Board of Commissioners with whom rests the responsibility for implementation.

This report has been prepared with considerable help from the following sources:

Chief E. E. King, Hamlet Police Department  
Chief Charles Utter, Hamlet Fire Department  
Commissioner Gordon Monroe, Hamlet Transportation and Public Works

Mr. Gilbert D. Robertson, Hamlet Water Department  
Mr. Carl Hodges, Hamlet Sewer Department  
Mrs. Evelyn B. Garrison, Hamlet Cemetery Facilities  
Mrs. Elsie McDougald, Hamlet Library Facilities  
Mr. C. W. Hudson, Rockingham-Hamlet Airport  
Mr. Evan R. Minier, Moore, Gardner and Associates, Inc.  
Mr. J. E. Huneycutt, Richmond County Schools  
Mr. E. C. Dyson, Carolina Power and Light Company  
Mrs. Faye White, Hamlet City Clerk  
Mrs. Edith Jones, Hamlet Assistant City Clerk

The Hamlet Planning Board strongly recommends that the Mayor and Board of Commissioners set as their top priority for improving Hamlet's community facilities, the hiring of a City Manager. It is the belief of the Planning Board that such a person would more than compensate for his salary through added savings to the city. It is further recommended that the city may want to consider an in-service training program titled "Public Administration for City or County Managers" which is a 160-hour (8 months) in-service course offered by the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

## CITY HALL

The Hamlet City Hall, located on the corner of Main and Champlain Streets, was built in 1924 but has had various additions since that time. Access is available from all directions and adequate parking is available at the curb and off the street to the rear of the building.

Although the original building is 45 years old, it is in good condition and the Council Room is newly renovated. With adequate maintenance it should last for the duration of the planning period. The major problem with the structure is its lack of space to house the following:

Police Department  
Jail  
Fire Department  
Rescue Squad  
Town Clerk's Office  
Magistrate Court (upstairs)  
City Council Chambers

### Recommendations

It is recommended that a new building be constructed for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad (see Fire Protection) and that the space vacated be used for expanding the Police Department, for moving the Water Department from its old building on Front Street into the City Hall, for providing a chamber for public meetings, and for providing an office and working space for the new City Manager (as proposed).

It is further recommended that the services of an architect be obtained to draw up working plans for this space.

## FIRE PROTECTION

The Hamlet Fire Department was organized during the decade 1900-1910. No records are available to determine the exact date of the creation of the department. The department has been in continuous operation and has expanded in both physical size and scope of services provided. Much improvement can be noted during the last three years, and a progressive atmosphere is obvious.

### Personnel and Equipment

There are currently 30 volunteer firemen, three full-time firemen, and a full-time chief divided into two fire fighting companies and two station companies. All have received training at Richmond Technical Institute, and some have had additional training elsewhere. Current plans are to send all personnel to an advanced course at Richmond Technical Institute. The full-time men work in shifts so that at least two men are at the station at all times during the day and one man is on duty at night. Average response to a fire by volunteers is 15 men -- which provides for one fire fighting company and one station company. Both full-time and volunteer men are involved in semi-annual fire drills for the hospital, day care centers, and public schools.

The fire department is located adjacent to the City Hall on Main and Champlain Streets with rear access to McDonald Avenue. Access to and from the building is adequate. The department is near the high value commercial districts and at the same time near the center of town. The fire chief indicates that even with so many railroads in town, there is no problem of street blocking because of the underpasses and overpasses on major streets.

The major equipment includes a 1968 Mack pumper with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm), a 1954 Maxim pumper in good condition with a capacity of 750 gallons per minute, and a 1947 Mack pumper in good condition (and used in reserve) with a capacity of 500 gpm. Tankers include a 1954 International with a capacity of 1,550 gallons and a 1952 International with a capacity of 1,000 gallons. Both vehicles are in good condition. A major item unique to a town the size of Hamlet is the 1968 Chevrolet aerial truck with a 55-foot hydraulic extension. This vehicle is necessary in areas where there are several buildings three stories high or over, and has often been used in Rockingham and Laurinburg.

The department is equipped with the various small apparatus necessary for fire fighting. The 1969-70 town budget includes funds to update the department with small equipment recommended by the N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

#### Communications

Communications equipment is installed on all vehicles except the aerial truck and the 1500 gallon tanker. Citizen Band radios are used for communication between firemen. Telephones are used for the most part in reporting fires; however, some merchants have recently installed sprinkler-alarm systems in their buildings. The fire department will install these systems if the merchants, both in-town and out-of-town, will buy them.

#### Service Area

The Hamlet Fire Department serves all the incorporated area and within a radius of three miles from the corporate limits. To go farther than three miles from the corporate limits would lower

the fire insurance rating of property within that radius. A service fee of \$300 is charged for all calls made outside the city limits unless such calls are made in cooperation with the Rockingham and Laurinburg Fire Departments under a mutual aid agreement.

#### Fire Flow and Water Distribution System

The N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau has indicated that fire flow is inadequate in some areas of Hamlet. This is caused by several factors -- all of which will be corrected by a water improvement program now underway. Primary causes of inadequate fire flow are seven deadend water mains, several mains which are too small, and lack of a loop system around the city. There are currently 115 fire hydrants located throughout the city.

#### Fire Insurance Rating

The N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau rated Hamlet 7 in 1968. The Rating Bureau indicated that several steps were necessary to raise the rating to a 6 or better:

- 1) one additional full-time man,
- 2) increase the capacity of filtered water,
- 3) improve the water distribution system, and
- 4) add several items of small equipment.

These and other steps should be accomplished by the summer of 1970, at which time the Mayor will request a new inspection by the N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

## Recommendations

1. Personnel - Standard. Two companies, two men at all times, in addition to Chief and volunteers. Have one man for fire prevention.

It is estimated that the current population of Hamlet is over 5,000 people. In Hamlet's situation there should be two men on duty at all times with each company, in addition to the Chief and the volunteers. If the Fire Rating Bureau's standards are to be met, the town would need at least seven full-time men or three more than it currently has. This would include one fire prevention man who would fill in on vacation for the other firemen. His presence would count heavily toward an increased fire rating. Annexations and an accelerated growth rate can increase this requirement substantially. It is recommended that the town hire an additional man this year and an additional man in each of the next two years. Thereafter, the population from the 1970 Census should be an indicator for manning the fire department.

Volunteer Firemen - Standard. The minimum number of volunteer fire fighters should never be less than ten per company and preferably should be at least twenty-five.

Including the captains, there are ten men in each fire company in Hamlet. The fire chief would like to have at least five or six more volunteers to have 12 or 13 men per company. It is recommended that the town advertise for qualified men and at the same time point out the advantages of being a volunteer fireman.

2. Fire Fighting Equipment - Standard. No vehicle should be more than 20 years old, except tankers and those held in reserve.

Although Hamlet has no vehicle over 20 years old (except for a reserve pumper), it has one pumper which will become 20 years old in 1974. The town should begin budgeting for this capital item now.

3. Fire Station - Standard. In addition to providing for adequate space requirements, the department should have adequate room for building expansion.

The present fire house is too small. Additional office space, apparatus space, and most critically, dormitory space. The full-time firemen have quarters in an apartment behind the fire station. The men should be housed in the station. Since there is no room for expansion at the present site, and

since this structure is in good condition, the town should build a new fire station and use the old fire station for space needed by the police department and other town personnel. The new site should be located nearer the western side of town -- the direction of new growth.

#### POLICE PROTECTION

The Hamlet Police Department has no exact record of the date it was organized, but it is known that there was a force around 1900 and there has been a force in continuous operation since that time. The department is located in City Hall with a separate entrance on Champlain Street. There are deficiencies, but the Hamlet Police Department, despite its limitations, is a modern and well-run small police force.

#### Personnel and Equipment

There are nine full-time policemen, including the chief. In addition, there are four full-time clerks and one part-time clerk who are responsible for keeping records, maintaining a desk, and assisting at school crossings. There is one clerk on duty at all times at the station. The police shifts are organized so that four men are on duty between 8 AM and 4 PM, two men from 4 PM to 12 midnight, and two from 12 midnight to 8 AM. These men patrol only the corporate limits unless an emergency arises outside the town. They work six days a week.

Training for policemen includes 120 hours at Richmond Technical Institute. All men on the force have had this training and an additional course is being planned. The men attend a firearms school supervised by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They must fire 50 rounds of ammunition per month under supervision at the police clubhouse on City Lake. The chief administers the department but one of the four daytime men is assistant chief and handles paper work, including FBI reports.

The major equipment includes one 1967 and one 1968 Plymouth police cruisers obtained second-hand from the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Both cars are equipped with communications, air-conditioned, and considered in good condition. Replacement policy enables the oldest car to be traded each year. The department has adequate small equipment, especially since the new town budget calls for additional fingerprinting equipment, a new camera, and a change to a new inner-city communication system with the State Highway Patrol. Each officer is furnished with uniforms, helmet, nightstick, and handcuffs, but must furnish his own pistol.

#### Headquarters and Jail

The police headquarters are: the chief's office, assistant chief's office, interrogation room, equipment room, and jail. The jail is equipped with seven cells which are not certified by the state since they do not have showers and meals are not served; however, these facilities are used only for temporary detention before prisoners are transported to the county jail in Rockingham.

#### Recommendations

1. Standard. The police officer-population ratio should be at least one officer for each 500 population.

It is recommended that the city hire two additional men to meet this standard. It is further recommended that the town maintain this ratio based on population. Special notice should be given to increases in population caused by annexation.

2. Standard. Part-time assistance should be provided by non-police personnel for such functions as protection at school crossings, mass public functions, and emergency services.

It is recommended that the town provide such assistance and further suggested that such personnel might be obtained from the Parent Teachers Association or Rescue Squad.

3. Standard. Police headquarters should afford adequate room for expansion.

The police department does not have adequate space at present nor does it have room for expansion. It is recommended again that the fire department be relocated, thus allowing part of its present space to be used by the police department.

4. Special Recommendation. The police chief has indicated that there is a higher than average rate of turnover of police personnel in his department and credits this primarily to the six-day week and low pay. To correct this situation, it is recommended that the town lower the work week to five days. This could be done if additional men were hired to have a 1:500 ratio.

It is further recommended that salaries be continually adjusted to scales which are competitive with the current regional average.

It is further recommended that the concept of a county police force, such as that proposed in the last Legislature for Anson and Rowan Counties, be thoroughly investigated and pursued, if feasible. Such a countywide force would not only improve law enforcement efficiency, but would also save considerable tax money.

## RESCUE SQUAD

The Marks Creek Life Saving and First Aid, Inc., Rescue Squad was organized in 1949, and has operated continuously. Headquarters are adjacent to the fire department on Main Street, in the same building but with separate rooms. The Rescue Squad is made up of members of the fire department. These men receive special training through Randolph Technical Institute, the fire department, the Civil Defense organization, etc. The Marks Creek Rescue Squad operates in cooperation with the Rockingham Rescue Squad and serves all of Richmond County.

Two major pieces of equipment are: a 1967 state certified ambulance and a 1968 state certified ambulance. Funds for the Rescue Squad come from the City of Hamlet and from contributions.

### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Rescue Squad remain housed with the fire department, and both should be moved into new facilities.

## WATER SYSTEM

The City bought the privately-owned Hamlet Water Company on December 16, 1968. Efforts to achieve this goal had been discussed for many years, and finally materialized after the water company could not afford to make major improvements in the system since its rate of revenue was limited. The City of Hamlet passed a 1½ million dollar bond election to buy and improve the system -- of which \$850,000 was for outright purchase of the system, and the additional funds to be used for renovating the system.

## Supply and Treatment

Raw water for the Hamlet water system is obtained from two lakes, one containing approximately 10 acres and the other 86 acres. These lakes are often referred to as the Sandhill Lakes and are located northeast of the railroad yards near the headwaters of Marks Creek. There are two other lakes not used for city water: Boyd's Lake located downstream from the two city reservoirs, and Hamlet City Lake located south of Boyd's Lake inside the corporate limits.

All of these lakes are part of the Marks Creek Tributary, which empties into the Pee Dee River southwest of Hamlet at the South Carolina border. "The drainage area above the dam on the downstream reservoir is calculated to be 3.42 square miles. There is no continuous record of stream flow information from the Marks Creek watershed; however, transferring information from the Falling Creek gauge, it is estimated that these reservoirs and the associated stream flow combine to produce a dependable source of raw water of approximately 1.8 million gallons per day (mgd) based on the driest 30-day period expected to occur once every 20 years."<sup>1</sup>

Water consumption is 100% of treatment capacity on peak consumption days which occur in late July and August. May, 1969, had one daily water consumption rate of 1,971,000 gallons.

Raw water from the Sandhills Lakes is of high quality and is easily treated for municipal purposes. The filter plant located at Lakeside Drive in northeast Hamlet is a conventional alum coagulation, sedimentation and filtration process. The original plant was built in 1908 and parts are still in operation.

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Study. The Harwood Beebe Company, Consulting Engineers. March, 1968.

Major additions to the plant and system were made in 1912, 1916, 1922, 1934, 1940, and 1963. The treatment capacity at the plant is 2.0 mgd as a consequence of three conventional filters noted at 0.5 mgd each and a new outdoor, steel, automatically backwashed filter, also rated 0.5 mgd. All of the filters were renovated in 1967 along with additional improvements at the plant.

#### Storage and Distribution System

A 200,000 gallon clear water reservoir is located on Lakeside Drive. In addition, three elevated tanks with a combined capacity of 550,000 gallons are located within the corporate limits. Water is pumped by one new 1500 gallon per minute (gpm) pump, two 900 gpm pumps, and one 700 gpm pump.

The distribution system is made up mostly of cast iron pipes about half of which are 8" in diameter, and the other half are 6" in diameter. Smaller pipes in the distribution system have utilized plastic and asbestos pipes. A large number of the lines are old and require replacing. There are several areas in the distribution system where pressure is low and are affected by two factors: (1) seven deadend pipes, (2) lines too small for the water consumed. Both of the situations will be corrected by the renovation plan now being engineered. Fire flow has been deemed adequate in the past but the most recent fire insurance rating (1968) indicated several areas of inadequate fire flow caused by these deficiencies.

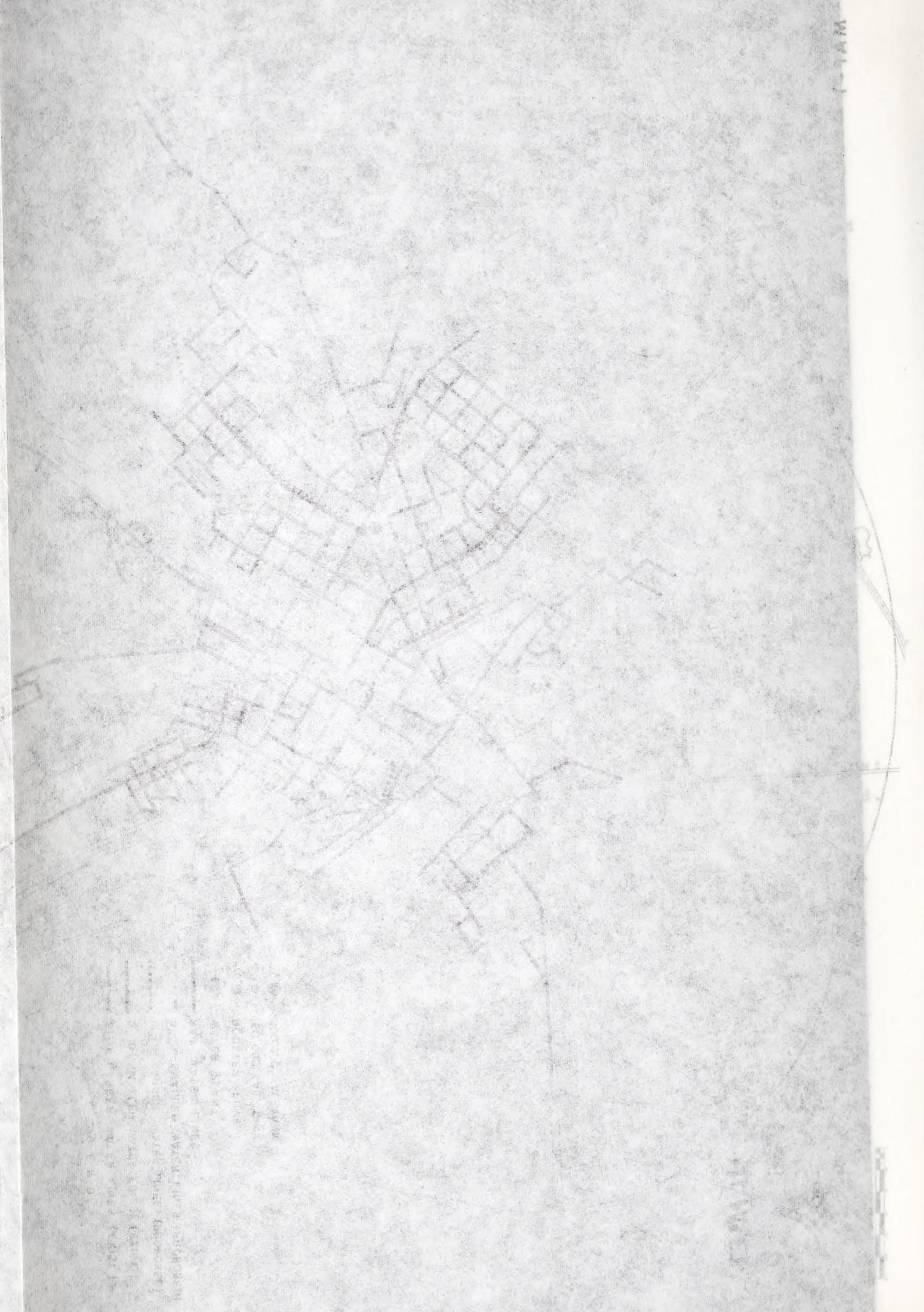
The distribution system is rather widespread as a consequence of having been owned by a private utility company. The system covers all of Hamlet, as well as the following areas:

1. Extends east of Hamlet along US 74 approximately 3,000 feet.
2. Extends south of Hamlet in Pearson Acres Subdivision and NC 177.
3. Extends west of Hamlet along US 74 and SR 1903 to serve East Rockingham and join the Rockingham water system.

EXISTING & PROPOSED  
WATER SYSTEM



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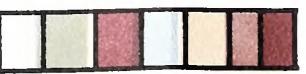
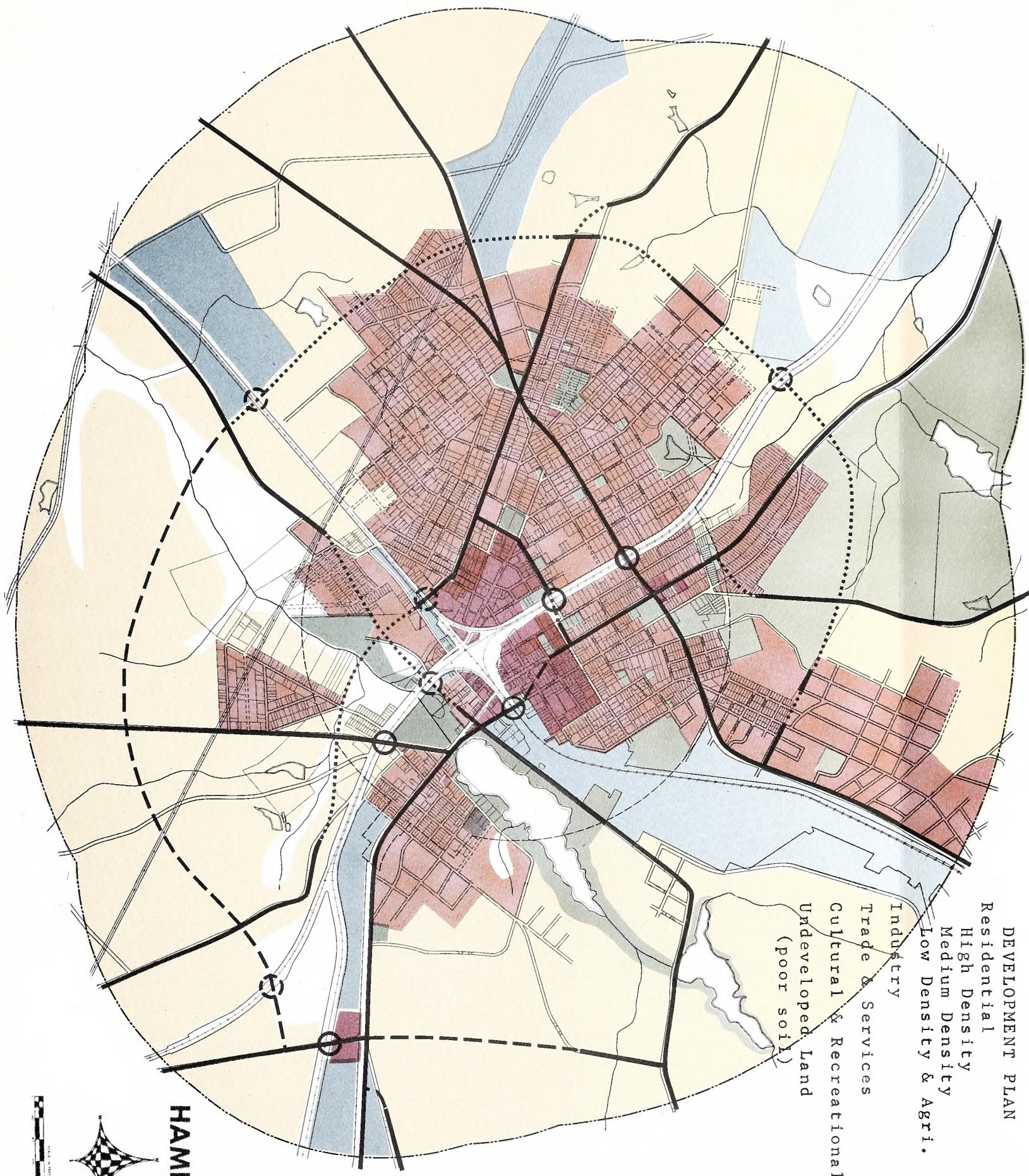


DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Residential  
High Density  
Medium Density  
Low Density & Agri.  
Industry

Trade & Services  
Cultural & Recreational  
Undeveloped Land  
(poor soil)

HAMLET





4. Extends north along Ledbetter Road to College Park Sub-division and along NC 177 over one mile to the new Riegel Industrial Acres.

Water is fed from the reservoir to the treatment plant over a distance of almost 9,000 feet by two trunk lines, one of which is 10 inches in diameter and was laid in 1921; the other is 20 inches in diameter and was laid in 1938.

#### Adequacy of Water System

The water system is unique in that its distribution system covers the one mile planning area with trunk lines. Although various additions will need to be made to the system to inter-connect lines and replace undersized and worn out lines, the town will not have to bear the expense of expanding into an area never before served by municipal water. The following recommendations made by the consulting engineers and supplemented by the recommendations on the following map, should be followed to bring the Hamlet water system up to adequate standards. All proposals related to both the countywide water study or to Hamlet alone if the countywide system is not developed.

#### Recommendations

1. Standard. The raw water supply should be plentiful and reliable for many years into the future.

The raw water supply presented impounds approximately 1.8 million gallons daily based on the driest 30-day period expected to occur every 20 years. Since the city's daily consumption sometimes exceeds this figure, it is possible that the three reservoirs could be drained over an extended drought. The city saw this almost happen in the fall of 1968. It is recommended that the town purchase Boyd's Lake and install an emergency trunk line to this lake to be used in such an emergency. City-owned property on Joe's Creek southeast of the present reservoirs should be utilized for impoundment purposes if it can be proven that the watershed can be maintained and protected (both for a source and against pollution), and that this is an economical

alternative (i.e., if volume in watershed is worth the expense).

2. Standard. The distribution system should be engineered in a manner that will eliminate deadend lines and the minimum size of lines should be 6" in diameter.

Although Hamlet's current water renovation program will eliminate most, if not all, of these two problems, it is recommended that in the future the city's consulting engineers be contacted before any distribution lines are laid.

3. Standard. Storage facilities for the treated water supply should have enough capacity to provide stable water pressures throughout the system, to provide sufficient water at periods of peak demand, and to provide an emergency supply for fire fighting purposes. Thus, it would seem reasonable that enough water should be stored to meet demand for a 24-hour period.

Hamlet's treated water storage capacity is but 750,000 gallons; over 1,000,000 gallons short of this standard. It is strongly recommended that increased storage facilities be added to the water system.

4. Standard. Water treatment capacity normally should be a minimum of 25% more than the present daily consumption in order to allow time to study and to expand facilities for future requirements.

Although the city's present water treatment capacity is far short of this standard, the present water renovation plan will increase treatment capacity to 3.0 mgp or 50% above present consumption.

5. General Recommendations. It is recommended that the city affiliate itself more closely with the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan done for Richmond County and that efforts be made to complement this study when feasible so that a countywide water system can someday prevail. In conjunction with this recommendation, Hamlet should purchase and install a water pump capable of pumping water from Rockingham to Hamlet. Although the two water systems joint, Hamlet cannot

receive water from Rockingham because of the difference in elevation. It is further recommended that Hamlet remain constantly aware of the needs for water in the proposed industrial sites west of town and those in Riegel Industrial Acres north of town. Expansion in these areas will also complement a countywide water system.

Having recently acquired a municipal water system, the residents of Hamlet must bear the burden of paying for the system while residents outside the city to not have this problems; therefore, the city should establish water rates periodically for outside the city residents that compensates for the difference between taxpayers cost and non-taxpayers cost. The general policy for most towns is to charge double rates for residents outside the city.

Non-city residents should pay for all municipal water line extensions. This is the present policy and should remain so.

#### SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Hamlet has had a public sewerage system since 1913 if the method of disposal utilized from that time until 1961 can be classified as a "system". Between 1913 and 1961, waste was carried from its source to Marks Creek where it was dumped raw. To correct a deplorable situation, the city's first sewage treatment plant was constructed in 1961.

#### Treatment and Capacity

The treatment plant is a trickling filter type plant located inside the corporate limits in south Hamlet along Marks Creek. It provides both primary and secondary treatment. Primary treatment involves settling and sludge digestion and secondary treatment involves a trickling filter and final clarification. Treated waste is discharged into Marks Creek. Chlorination of the treated

waste at the plant is not necessary because of adequate stream flow in Marks Creek. The design capacity of the treatment plant is 0.66 mgd. The average flow is but 0.3 mgd, approximately half the design capacity.

#### Service Area and Collection System

The sewerage system serves the residents of Hamlet and several small areas outside the corporate limits to the west.

The collection system is gravity flow except for an area in north Hamlet served by a pump station located adjacent to the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad just outside the corporate limits. The system is composed of vitrified clay pipes ranging from 8 inches to 21 inches in diameter.

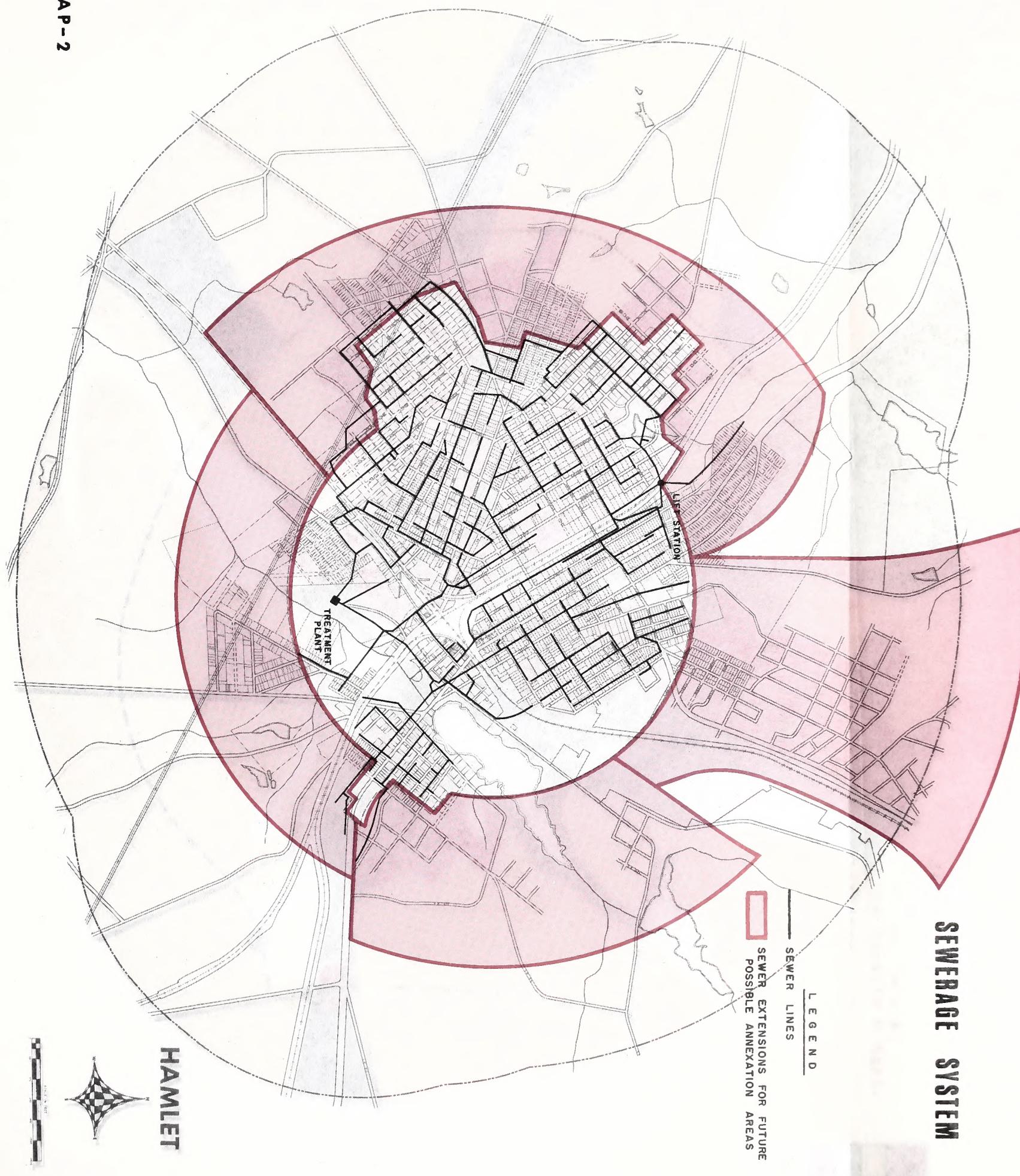
#### Septic Tanks

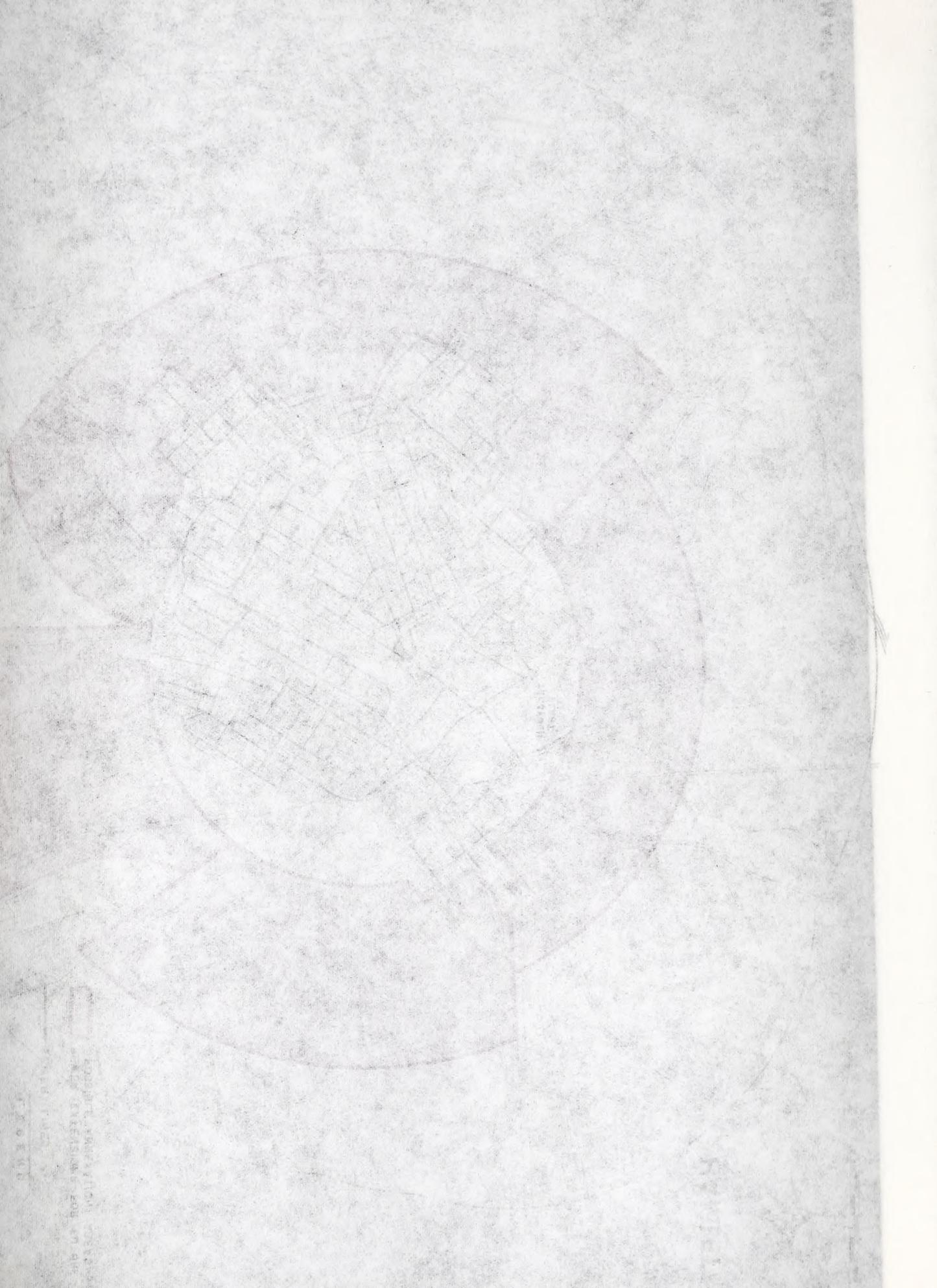
Most of the residents living in the planning area and not served by city sewage lines use septic tanks for waste disposal. The Harwood Beebe Company made the following comments in the Richmond County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Study concerning septic tanks:

Septic tanks in the sandy areas of Richmond County usually work reasonably well. In subdevelopment areas this is not always true due to the fact that the house and septic tank both must be located in an area of about 20,000 square feet. The close proximity of other houses and their associated tanks and drain field aggravate the problem. In some areas of the county the soil has a slow percolation rate and septic tanks in these areas are more expensive and provide good disposal for only a limited period of time.

It is estimated that the average cost of an individual septic tank for a residence in Richmond County is between \$400-\$450, installed, complete with drain field. Depending upon the

# SEWERAGE SYSTEM





DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Residential

High Density

Medium Density

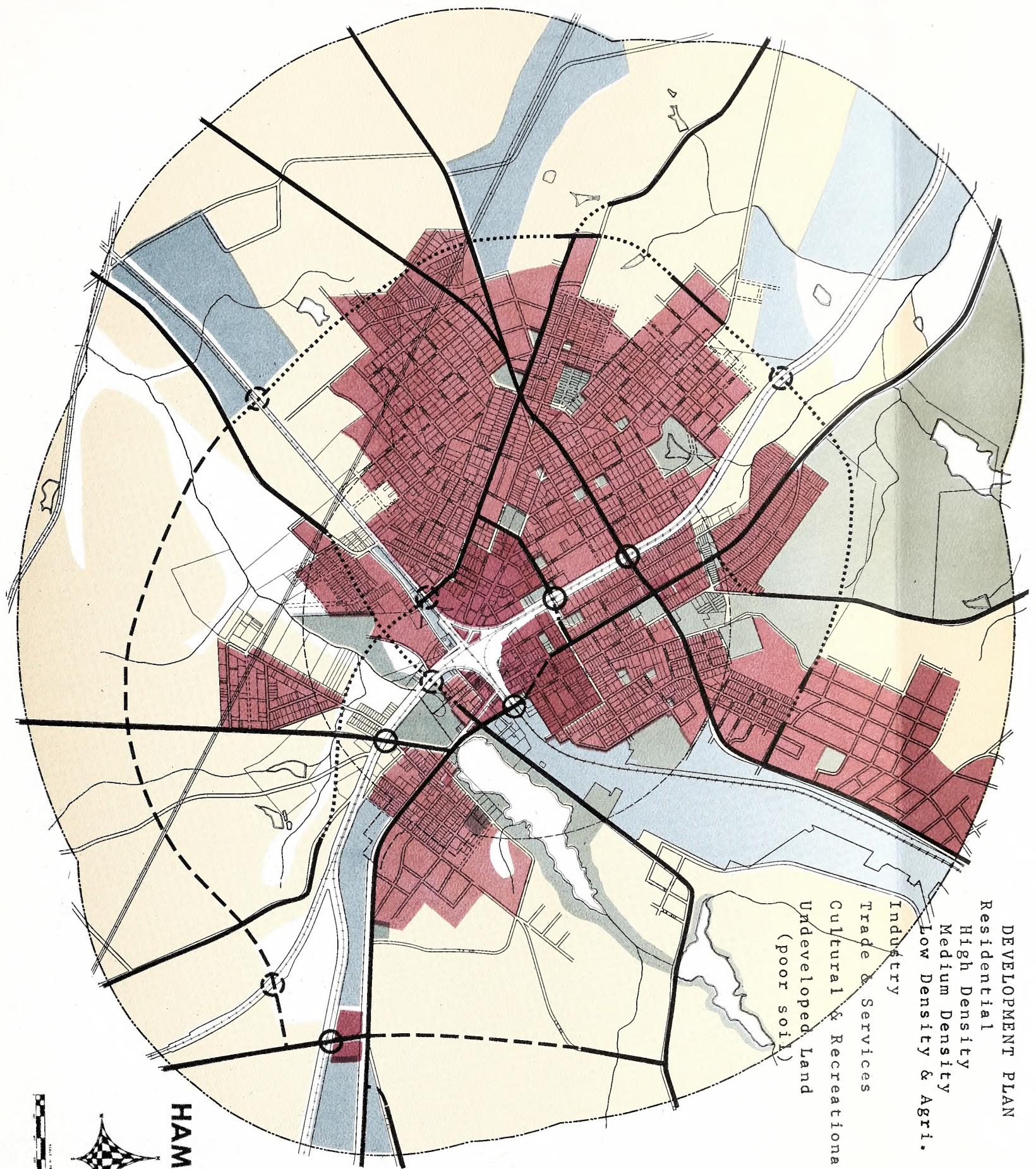
Low Density & Agri.

Industry

Trade & Services

Cultural & Recreational

Undeveloped Land  
(poor soil)





area of the county in which the tank is located, the life of the installation will vary from 3 to 15 years without additional work of maintenance. Septic tanks serving the home of a family with young children will have a significantly shorter life expectancy and will require more length of drain field than one serving an older family due to large amount of water from washing clothes. In most subdivisions the investments in individual septic tanks would pay for a large portion of the conventional community type collection lines and treatment facilities.

#### Adequacy of Sewerage System

Although the Hamlet sewerage system seems quite adequate for present purposes, growth expected to occur during the twenty-year planning period will likely increase the sewage flow far beyond present design capacity. Should the city provide for municipal sewage treatment for the entire planning area as indicated on the following map, the plant capacity should be 1.5 mgd in 1978 according to the Harwood Beebe Company Consulting Engineers. The Beebe Company has projected further and indicates that a treatment capacity of 3.0 mgd will be needed beyond 1990. In addition, the system will need pumping facilities to serve the northwest area of the planning area. With these additions, the Hamlet sewerage system should be quite adequate. This expansion will serve a large area of Richmond County, including several large industrial areas, which will render Hamlet's fair share toward accomplishing a Comprehensive Sewerage System for the entire county. A county system would have the added advantage of taking some of the financial burden off the city insofar as the extension of sewer service to low-income neighborhoods in the planning area fringe and just beyond.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse collection service is offered to all residences within the city limits. Collection for residential areas is offered twice a week, and trash pickup is provided daily for commercial areas. No service is provided by the city for the fringe area. A private firm collects refuse for this area and uses the county dump for disposal.

### Refuse Disposal Area

Refuse is disposed of at a sanitary landfill recently purchased by the city. The site contains approximately 35 acres and is located approximately one mile east of the city limits off the Old Gibson Road adjacent to the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. The site is considered quite adequate for the next twenty years. Access is good and there are no problems with pollution, fire or blowing trash. Refuse is covered daily by a bulldozer recently purchased by the city. The area is protected by the railroad track and a locked gate at the entrance. In addition to this site, trash such as cardboard boxes, tree limbs, and other such debris, is burned at an area adjacent to the sewage disposal plant. There is a pollution problem in the burning operation when the wind blows in the direction of the nearby public housing.

### Personnel and Equipment

Personnel are used interchangeably within the Public Works Department. There are currently 31 men employed by the city for all public works. Only three men are used regularly on a packer truck; three men are used part-time by the refuse operation.

Equipment consists of one 1964 Chevrolet packer in good condition. Seven dump trucks are owned by the city and are available to the refuse department. A used bulldozer is used at the landfill.

#### Adequacy of Refuse Department

The city has several policies for refuse collection; all are designed to expedite operations. Spilled refuse or cans in excess of 30 gallons will not be picked up, and only refuse placed on the curb in residential areas is picked up. Beyond this, the city is planning to establish a policy of picking up refuse from city-maintained refuse disposal cans inside the central business district. Merchants are being encouraged to purchase cans bearing their advertisements.

The department has adequate policies, landfill space, and frequency of collection to carry it through the next 20 years. Personnel and packer equipment will need to be increased to compensate for population growth and any annexed territory.

The town should have one additional packer as soon as possible to serve the existing area. If annexation occurs, the city should operate at least three packers. The generally recommended standard is to operate one packer for each 2,000 residents. The bulldozer at the landfill area is old and will need to be replaced within the next few years. The city replaces one truck each year.

The generally recommended procedure for replacement of packer trucks is to replace one every eight years. The existing truck should be replaced in 1972, and a new packer to be purchased in 1970 should be replaced in 1978. A third truck should be purchased whenever annexation occurs and replaced eight years thereafter. Three additional men will be needed for each refuse packer.

## PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AND MAINTENANCE YARD

A 300' by 400' lot with a small building adjacent to City Lake is used as a garage and maintenance shop. The building was constructed approximately 20 years ago, and although structurally sound, it has limited storage space. The building is constructed of concrete block and has concrete floors. It is used primarily for storage and vehicle maintenance and as an office for the director of public works. The area around the building is used for parking municipal vehicles and equipment. The area is unpaved and there is no room for expansion. Vehicles must cross a major thoroughfare to enter the yard from the west, thus limiting easy access.

### Recommendations

1. Standard. Maintenance areas utilized for municipal vehicles and equipment should be paved, fenced and lighted and should provide adequate space for current needs and future expansion.

In view of space deficiencies and locational problems at the municipal garage, it is recommended that the town move the garage to the sewage disposal plant area where adequate space is available. This new site should be paved as necessary, fenced, and lighted.

2. Standard. A covered vehicle parking shed should be provided to protect vehicles from the elements.

It is recommended that the new site contain, in addition to a garage, workshop and office for the public works director, a covered shed to protect all equipment from the elements.

3. General Recommendations. The city should hire a public works director who would be responsible to the city manager. It is also recommended that the old public works yards adjacent to City Lake be used as a "tot lot" or for other recreation purposes. The old building should be remodeled and used as a recreation building.

## TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Hamlet has two types of transportation -- air and rail. These two facilities are vital to the economy of the community, to convenience for the citizens, and to many planning-related activities.

### The Seaboard Coast Line Railroad

Hamlet is considered the "Hub of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad." Railroading activity began in Hamlet in 1861 when the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company was completed from Wilmington to Rockingham via Hamlet. In 1877, tracks were laid from Raleigh and Sanford southward via Hamlet. In 1887 the Palmetto Railroad was completed between Cheraw and Hamlet. Connections were made with Columbia and Savannah in 1900. These small lines (over 140) and the larger Atlantic Coast Line have merged to form the Hamlet-based Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company. The heart of Hamlet is a railroad junction with lines running east, north, west and south.

Hamlet has railroad connections for industry and commerce as well as convenience through passenger service.

### Rockingham-Hamlet Airport

The Rockingham-Hamlet Airport is located on a 200-acre tract on Bennettsville-Rockingham Road approximately three miles from Hamlet. Since its original construction in 1942, the airport has expanded and improved until it is presently a very adequate, small, general facility. The airport is governed by a three-member airport commission, one of whom is appointed by Hamlet and the others by Rockingham and Richmond County, respectively.

In recent years, a number of renovations have occurred at the airport. The paved runway was recently increased to a length of 4,300 feet, new lighting was installed, a new beacom placed in operation, and a large taxi and tie down area paved. These improvements have been financed by a combination of Federal aid, state aid, and a local bond election.

Airport facilities include a small air conditioned terminal office building, a hanger which accommodates ten small planes, tie-down facilities for 15 planes, a fueling station, unicom radio, and a building used as headquarters for the local Civil Air Patrol.

Although commercial air traffic does not operate from the Rockingham-Hamlet Airport, the facility is equipped to handle it. Air flight instructions and charter service are available. Most of the present air traffic consists of business and pleasure craft. Many of the business craft are small twin engine jets serving the county industries.

#### Recommendations

It is the feeling of the Planning Board that the airport should be renamed "The Rockingham County Airport". Although the airport is located in a non-urban area of Richmond County away from conflicting land uses, care should be taken to prevent undesirable land uses around the airport. The only protection around the airport are easements established by the Airport Commission and adjacent property owners. It is recommended that the county prepare a zoning ordinance and accompanying zoning map for this area.

Also, every effort should be made to have third level air taxi commercial air service scheduled to and from this airport as soon as possible.

## STREET SYSTEM AND THOROUGHFARE PLAN

### Street System

Total street mileage for Powell Bill purposes in Hamlet is 39.08 miles, and of this total, 30.29 miles are city maintained and 8.79 miles are state maintained, as of July 1, 1969. In addition, .68 miles are exempt from Powell Bill funds because it has a right-of-way of 16 feet or less. Only 6.01 miles of the total are unpaved (less than 16%). Of this total, 4.57 miles are stoned or graveled, and 1.44 miles are only compacted earth. Compared to towns of similar size, Hamlet has a high percentage of paved streets. Most unpaved streets are on the fringes of the corporate limits, and almost all of the streets in the subdivisions beyond the corporate limits are unpaved. This is due in part to the absence of subdivision control outside the corporate limits of Hamlet, and this may also cause many deadend streets and offset intersections in the fringe area in the future. There are few major design problems or inadequate rights-of-way inside the corporate limits.

The present city policy on street paving utilizes Powell Bill funds for resurfacing. New pavement cost for unpaved streets is shared by the property owner and town with the property owner paying one-third and the town paying two-thirds.

### Recommendations

1. Standard. The city should have subdivision control in the one-mile fringe area.

Until action of the 1969 General Assembly, subdivision control was not permitted outside of Hamlet. It is recommended that the town immediately extend its current subdivision regulations.

2. Standard. An average street's life expectancy is ten years; hence, approximately 10% of the city's streets should be resurfaced every year.

It is recommended that the town set aside funds for this project in each fiscal year. It is further suggested that a program for evaluating street conditions be established to make recommendations for this aim.

3. Priorities. All of the city's streets should be paved and priorities should be set up to attain this goal. The following priorities are suggested for the unpaved streets inside the existing town limits:

- a) West Bauersfield Avenue
- b) Bridges Street
- c) Treatment Plant Road
- d) All other unpaved streets inside corporate limits.

#### Thoroughfare Plan

Hamlet's generally good street system does not include a thoroughfare framework. This deficiency was noted in the Land Development Plan (1967); consequently, a section of that plan was devoted to a sketch thoroughfare plan. The Plan was mutually adopted by the city and State Highway Commission and is incorporated on the street conditions map in this section. It is felt that the following priorities should be established for completing the plan during the next twenty years. The priorities are noted on the accompanying map.

1. Widen US 74 at both western and eastern edges of the corporate limits for a length of approximately one-half mile. This project is now being partially completed by widening the eastern section.
2. Widen NC 177 at both northern and southern edges of the corporate limits for a length of one-half mile.

3. Complete the western section of SR 1903.
4. Complete the eastern section of SR 1903 extension and join to SR 1615 and provide a grade separation at the Seaboard Railroad crossing.
5. Connect SR 1811 and SR 1608 and provide a grade separation at Seaboard Railroad crossing.
6. Construction of a bypass as proposed around west and south Hamlet.

It is anticipated that these roads will be the responsibility of the Highway Commission; Hamlet will eventually be expected to participate to some degree in joint city-state financing for acquisition of new rights-of-way. The State Highway Commission does not have a mutual agreement on system responsibilities with Hamlet. It is anticipated that one will be developed in the near future.

#### ELECTRICITY

Carolina Power and Light Company provides retail electricity to Hamlet. The North Carolina Utilities Commission regulates the rates and some of the policy of the company. Pee Dee Electric Membership Coop serves parts of rural Richmond County. In general, Carolina Power and Light serves urban areas and areas along major highways, while Pee Dee Electric serves more remote rural areas. Both companies have a working agreement as to the areas they will serve in the future.

Company policies are the same for its service areas throughout the state. The company, in the case of new residential construction, will place lines underground for a service surcharge of \$1.25 monthly for a ten-year period. In new commercial developments, the company will install underground lines on a cost-differential basis. The customer pays the difference between the cost of aerial and underground lines. If a customer desires to replace aerial lines with underground lines, the

company will give the customer a cash credit for the salvage value of any removed aerial equipment. The company has additional policies for mobile home parks, redevelopment areas, and other related developments. The only underground wiring to date in Hamlet has been done on an individual basis.

Local representatives of Carolina Power and Light will meet with developers, towns and other interested groups to discuss various policies on electrical expansion and changes brought about by urban growth.

#### Recommendations

The Planning Board feels that one of the long-range goals for the City of Hamlet should be the placing of all utility lines underground. To achieve this goal, the city should require all developers to begin doing this in new developments.

It is further recommended that the city set the pace by placing lines underground in public housing sites and any urban renewal areas in the future. By doing such work in the preliminary stages of development, savings can be anticipated since streets, sidewalks and vegetation will not have to be dug up or avoided.

#### STREET LIGHTING

The Carolina Power and Light Company installs street lights according to the city's request and charges a flat rental fee based on the size and type of light plus the cost of any pole that has to be provided. Hamlet is lighted by both incandescent and mercury vapor lighting. Most of the incandescent lighting has a rating of 2500 lumens and costs the town

\$1.58 per light per month plus \$.40 if a pole is provided by CP & L. Most of the mercury vapor lighting in Hamlet has a rating of 7000 lumens and costs the town \$3.05 per light per month plus \$.40 if a pole is provided by CP & L.

It is felt that the existing lighting in Hamlet is inadequate in many parts of the city. It is recommended that the city have an evaluation of the lighting system made by Carolina Power and Light Company and abide by its findings. Most of the inadequate lighting is in residential areas where traffic flow is low, and in areas adjacent to the corporate limits.

The city should replace all incandescent lighting with mercury vapor lighting, and install mercury vapor lights in all areas which will be annexed into the city. The cost of such lighting is less than twice as expensive, but renders approximately three times as much light.

The major thoroughfares in Hamlet should be lighted with 21,000 lumen rated mercury vapor lights. The cost of such lights is \$4.65 per month plus the cost of the pole.

#### EDUCATION

One administrative unit, the Richmond County Board of Education, supervises all schools in Richmond County including five separate schools in the Hamlet Planning Area. In 1968 the Division of School Planning of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction published School Survey/Richmond County Schools. The findings of that survey are reprinted in this section as they relate to schools in the Hamlet area (background information on the county school system included as necessary).

## County Educational Attainment

### Income

An analysis of the income status of the families in Richmond County in 1960 showed:

Families earning \$	0 - \$ 3,000	-----	40%
\$	3,000 - 5,000	-----	26.4%
	5,000 - 7,000	-----	17.6%
	7,000 - 10,000	-----	11.3%
	10,000 and over	-----	4.8%

In comparison with North Carolina, Richmond County has more families in the \$0-3,000 category and fewer families in the \$10,000 and over category with all other categories about the same.

### Education of Population

In 1960 persons aged 25 and older had completed median school years of 8.4. In comparison, the average for North Carolina was 9.0, the South was 9.5, and the United States was 10.6.

In 1960, 19.7% of the persons aged 25 and older had completed less than five years of schooling. In comparison, the figure was 16.5 for North Carolina, 14.0 for the South, and 8.3 for the United States.

In 1960, 26.1% of the population had completed high school or more. In comparison, the figures are North Carolina, 32.3; the South, 35.2; the United States, 41.0.

In 1962 the per capita income of Richmond County was \$1,660. In comparison, the State of North Carolina's average was \$1,732; the average for the United States was \$2,368.

Fig. 1

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL USE DATA

SCHOOL AND GRADES	ACRES	YEAR ADDITIONS	PUPIL NUMBER	MEM- BER-SHIP	PUPIL-STAFF RATIO	NUMBER CLASS-ROOMS	NUMBER MINI-CLASS- ROOMS	NUMBER MEET- ING ROOMS	NUMBER STAND-ARDS	TEACH-ER WORK-SPACE	ADM. WORK-SPACE	LI-BRARY SPACE	AU-DI-POSE FOR RI-PLAY UM	COUN-SEL-ING SPACE	GYM-NA-TO-RIUM	LABO-RUM	ADE-QUACY OF SITE	SPECIAL FACILITIES ADEQUACY					
Ashley Chapel	1-8	10.6	1953	None	502	20	25-1	16	16	19	432	A	A	I	I	D	A	D	D	I			
Beaver Dam	1-8	20.1	1951	None	214	8	26.7-1	6	6	8	162	A	A	I	I	D	A	D	D	A			
L. J. Bell	1-6	13.0	1952	1955	1087	40	27-1	25	25	40	675	A	A	I	I	A	A	D	D	I			
Capital Highway	1-6	4.6	1942	None	361	14	25.7-1	13	13	13	351	A	A	I	I	A	I	D	A	D	I		
Cordova	1-8	8.1	1938	None	336	13	25.8-1	12	5	12	324	A	A	I	I	I	D	A	D	D	I		
East Hamlet	1-6	5.0	1925	1937, 1939	229	10	23.9-1	9	0	9	243	A	A	I	I	A	A	D	A	D	I		
Ellerbe	1-12	15.6	1932	None	671	29	23.1-1	38*	19	26	988	A	A	I	I	A	A	D	A	D	I		
Fairview Heights	1-8	15.0	1950	None	761	28	27.1-1	25	25	29	675	A	A	I	I	A	A	D	A	D	I		
Fayetteville Street	1-8	4.0	1926	1956	227	9	25.2-1	9	8	9	243	A	A	I	I	A	A	D	A	D	I		
Great Falls	1-7	3.0	1926	1950	172	73	22.9-1	7	0	7	189	I	A	I	I	I	I	D	A	D	I		
HAMLET HIGH SCHOOL ** (Hamlet Avenue)	8-12	6.0	1922	58	1025	45	22.7-1	37*	12	38	962	A	A	I	I	A	A	A	D	I	I		
Hoffman	1-12	19.3	1957	None	207	9	23.0-1	12*	9	9	312	A	A	I	I	D	A	A	A	A	I		
Leak Street	1-12	13.0	1935	66	858	40	21.4-1	29*	24	33	754	A	A	I	I	A	A	I	A	D	I		
Mineral Springs (Monroe Avenue) JHS *** 7-8	1-12	24.5	1941	None	806	31	26.0-1	24	16	31	624	A	A	I	I	A	D	A	A	D	A		
Pee Dee	1-7	3.5	1931	1950	155	83	24.0-1	23*	20	22	598	A	A	I	I	A	D	A	D	A	I		
Roberdeau	1-8	12.3	1951	None	181	7	25.8-1	6	0	6	189	I	A	I	I	I	A	D	A	D	A		
Rockingham High	6-12	13	1922	65,66	1312	56	23.4-1	53*	9	51	1378	A	A	I	I	A	A	I	A	D	I		
Rohrhen	1-12	30.1	1926	49,51	1129	47	24.0-1	61*	31	43	1586	A	A	I	I	A	A	D	A	D	I		
Rosenwald	1-8	13.8	1957	None	188	7	26.8-1	6	6	7	162	A	A	I	I	D	A	D	A	D	I		

\*\*Includes all teaching stations    \*\* CHANGE MADE 1969

A means Adequate

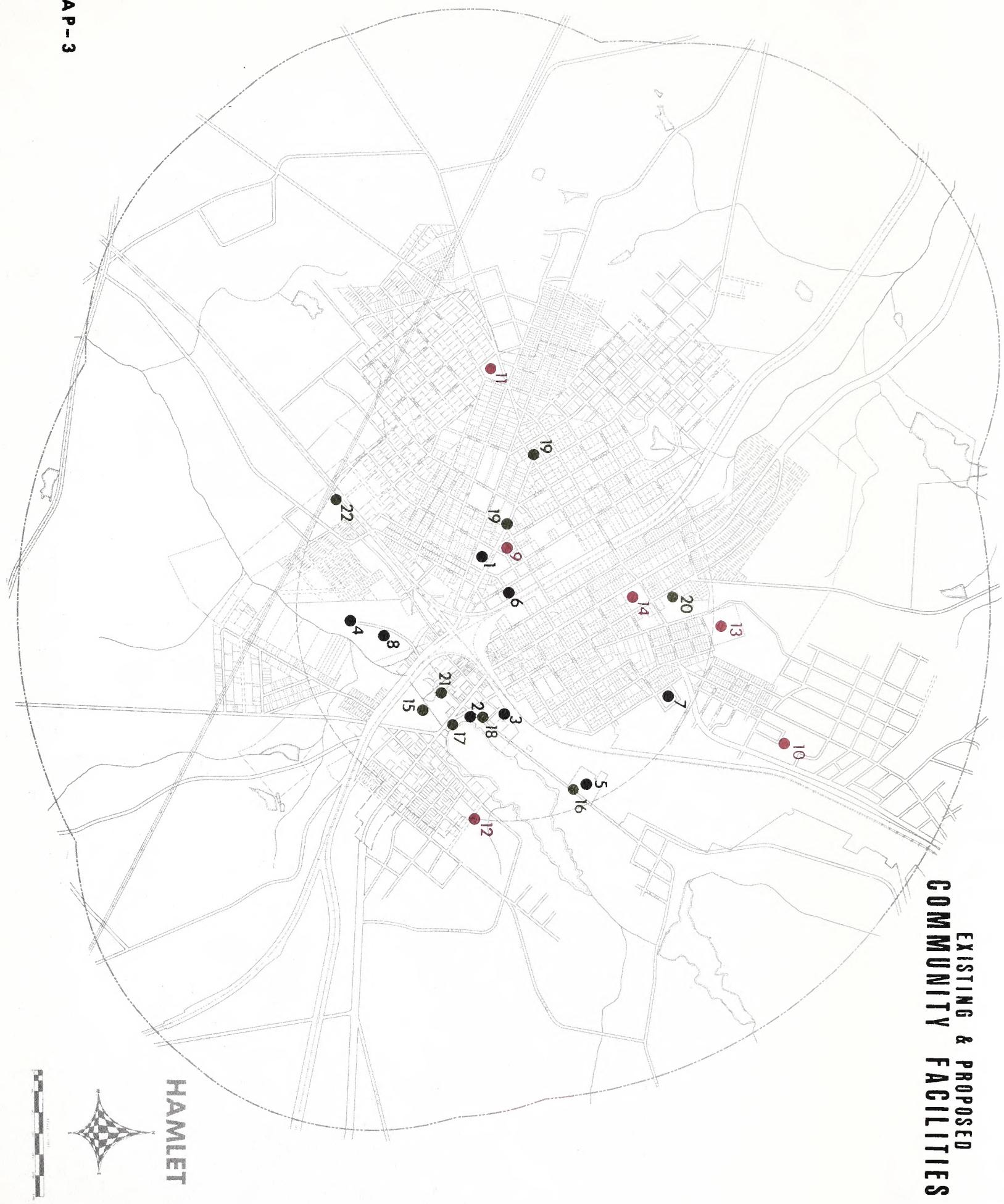
I means Inadequate

D means Does Not Apply

LEGEND FOR EXISTING AND PROPOSED  
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- | GOVERNMENTAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES                                   | EDUCATIONAL SERVICES                      | RECREATION                            |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. CITY HALL, POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND RESCUE SQUAD | 9. HAMLET PUBLIC LIBRARY                  | 15. FAIR GROUNDS                      |
| 2. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND GARAGE                              | 10. CAPITAL HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL     | 16. LITTLE LEAGUE BALL PARK           |
| 3. WATER PLANT   | 11. FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL    | 17. HAMLET CITY LAKE AND PARK         |
| 4. SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT  | 12. FAYETTEVILLE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 18. PROPOSED RECREATION CENTER        |
| 5. NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY   | 13. HAMLET JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL             | 19. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS                |
| 6. HAMLET HOSPITAL   | 14. HAMLET HIGH SCHOOL                    | 20. PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION AREA |
| 7. MARY LOVE CEMETERY  |   | 21. PROPOSED RECREATION AREA          |
| 8. PROPOSED PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE SITE                               |   | 22. PROPOSED PLAYGROUND               |

**EXISTING & PROPOSED  
COMMUNITY FACILITIES**





**High School Graduates Five-Year Summary**

	1966 1961-62*	1965 1960-61*	1964 1959-60*	1963 1958-59*	1962 1957-58*	
Number of high school graduates	203	187	199	168	189	
Enrollment of Eighth Grade four years preceding	273	265	258	244	271	
Number and percent of graduates entering college:						
Four-year college:	No. - 58 %	28.6	61 32.6	50 25.1	47 28.0	47 24.9
Two-Year college: (or equivalent)	No. - 26 %	12.8	9 4.8	12 6.0	7 4.2	5 2.6
Number and percent of graduates continuing education or training other than college:	No. - 36 %	17.7	25 13.4	25 12.6	21 12.5	19 10.1
Number and percent of graduates entering military service or gainfully employed						
Military:	No. - 10 %	4.9	14 7.5	19 9.6	12 7.1	16 8.5
Employed:	No. - 25 %	12.3	33 17.6	56 28.1	48 28.6	48 25.4
Number and percent of graduates not accounted for:	No. - 48 %	23.7	45 24.1	37 18.6	33 19.6	54 28.6

\*Year graduates were in eighth grade.

Source: Principal's Preliminary Reports, Follow-Up Survey North Carolina High School Graduates, and compilation by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Research and Statistics.

## The Schools and the Instructional Program

### Unitwide

In 1967-68 and at present, one superintendent and one assistant superintendent administer the policies and manage the schools for the Board of Education.

Three supervisors provide the leadership and give supervision to all of the teachers in the instructional program.

Two attendance counselors, one maintenance person, three food service personnel, one transportation person, two ESEA personnel, and one Title III ESEA person comprise the central administrative staff of the superintendent.

### Instructional Services Personnel

An analysis of the instructional services in the schools shows the following:

two school in the administrative unit, Roberdel and Rosenwald, have less than one teacher per grade; eleven of the schools have teacher aides; fourteen of the school have music teachers; of this fourteen, three have one or more full-time music teachers, whereas the rest have a range of 1/5 of a teacher through 3/5 of a teacher; all of the schools except Hoffman have a librarian, six of the schools have full-time librarians, others have a range from 1/5 through 3/5 of one librarian; one school, Fairview Heights, has an improvement project program; seven of the schools have part-time art teachers; out of the eight schools containing grades 9-12, seven have full-time or part-time guidance counselors; those having full-time guidance counselors are Hamlet Avenue, Monroe Avenue, and Rockingham High Schools; Hoffman has no guidance counselor; two schools, Rockingham High School and Hamlet Avenue School, have programs for the academically talented; six schools have educable programs in special education; all of the schools having grades 9-12 had vocational teachers; the number of vocational teachers is as follows:

Ellerbee....2	Leak Street ....4
Hamlet Avenue....6	Rohanen.....2
Rockingham High....8	Mineral Springs .. 2
Hoffman. .1	Monroe Avenue....3

three of the schools, Capital Highway, East Hamlet, and Ellerbee, had ESEA and/or private kindergartens.

#### Pupil Population

From 1962-63 to 1966-67, for a period of five years, the average daily membership changed from 10,808 in 1962-63 to 10,575 in 1966-67.

A projection of the pupil population shows that the pupil population in Richmond County is going to show a slight decline in the next ten-year period. With improvements in the dropout rate, however, one can expect the pupil population of Richmond County to remain about the same as it present is. This means that with today's enrollment of approximately 10,900 one may expect this approximate enrollment for several years with no significant decline or increase.

#### Accreditation

All of the elementary schools are accredited by the State Department of Public Instruction except East Hamlet. All of the high schools in the administrative unit are accredited by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction.

Two of the high schools, Hamlet Avenue and Rockingham High, are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

#### Secondary Course Offerings

The high schools in the administrative unit offer the following number of courses:

Ellerbe	36	Monroe Avenue	40
Hamlet Avenue	47	Rockingham	60
Leak Street	32	Rohanen	39
Mineral Springs	33		

#### Libraries

The average number of library books per pupil ranges from a low of five per pupil at Monroe Avenue to a high of sixteen per pupil at Hamlet Avenue. Seven of the schools have full-time librarians. Nine of the part-time or full-time librarians are certified.

### Special Education Programs

In 1967-68, Richmond County had an educable program with ten teachers and a trainable program with one teacher.

### Guidance Services

The present status of organized programs in Richmond County varies from school to school. The facilities to accommodate the program vary from school to school to school. The depth and quality of the program is one aspect of the total program that needs the attention of the central administration.

### Finance

#### Tax Rate

In 1966-67, the total countywide property tax rate for Richmond County was \$1.45. The portion allocated for school purposes was:

Current Expense	\$ .300
Capital Outlay	.120
Debt Service	.235
Supplementary Levy	<u>.150</u>
Total	\$ .805

This represents 55.5% of the total tax rate for school purposes. Forty-four and five-tenths percent of the tax rate was for purposes other than schools.

#### Reevaluation and Ratio

The date of the last reevaluation of property in Richmond County was 1965. The assessment ratio was 60 per cent.

#### Assessed Valuation

The assessed valuation of property in Richmond County as of June 30, 1967, was \$89,337,964.

#### Bonding Capacity

The legal maximum bonding capacity as of June 30, 1967, was \$7,147,037.12. This was based on an assessed valuation of \$89,337,964 and a bonding limitation of 8 per cent.

### Indebtedness

The bonded indebtedness for school purposes as of June 30, 1967, was \$2,045,000.

The present bonding capacity based on data as of June 30, 1967, was \$5,102,037.12. This figure was determined by subtracting the bonded indebtedness from the maximum bonding capacity.

### Taxable Property per Pupil

In 1966-67, Richmond County had taxable property per pupil in average daily membership of \$8,368.90. This figure was determined by dividing the assessed valuation, \$89,337,964 by an average daily membership in pupils of 10,675.

### Current Expense

In 1966-67, when Richmond, Rockingham, and Hamlet were operating as separate administrative units the per pupil expenditures were as follows:

Richmond, \$448.31; Rockingham, \$405.77; Hamlet, \$393.31.

In comparison with the State as a whole, the average per pupil expenditures for all of the children in the three units were comparable to the per pupil expenditures being made in the state. When the per pupil expenditure for current expense was compared to the United States average, Richmond County was considerable below the average of \$573 per pupil.

### Fees

In 1967-68, local fees were charged to all pupils for instructional supplies and library; local fees were also charged to pupils enrolled in courses or participating in activities at both the elementary and high school levels.

### Available Funds

The Richmond County Board of Education has \$962,182.99 in unallocated funds from the 1963 State Bond Fund. These funds may be used by the Richmond County Board of Education for constructing and improving existing facilities. This amount is not enough to meet all facility needs in Richmond County. Local funds will have to be secured to meet the total facilities needs of the school system.

## Major Problems

The survey of schools in Richmond County revealed several major problems:

an evident need for expansion and improvement of music, art, physical education; industrial arts, and vocational education;  
an inadequate number of special services personnel;  
a high pupil-staff ratio;  
a low teacher pay supplement;  
inadequate financial support;  
small size of some schools;  
a low quality of school construction;  
an inadequate maintenance program.

## Recommendations

### Unit-Wide Organization and Administration

1. The Survey Committee suggests that the Richmond County Board of Education develop a comprehensive set of written policies dealing with all aspects of the educational program: Make policies available to all personnel and lay persons.

### Personnel

2. Reduce the pupil-staff ratio gradually. Employ additional special services personnel for the superintendent's office to provide county wide supervisory assistance in art, music, physical education, and guidance. Increase the pay supplement for teachers to a level comparable to that paid in the area.

### Curriculum

3. Supplement and extend the school system's program of planning and evaluation through:  
instituting industrial arts programs and prevocational programs in all schools containing the middle grades;  
relating the high school vocational programs to post-secondary programs in nearby technical institutes as well as colleges, universities, and other post high school institutions;  
placing emphasis on music, art, and physical education system wide;  
developing plans for a kindergarten program using existing facilities that are suitable where possible.

4. The Committee feels that the financial capability of the County indicates that not less than a \$.35 increase in the current expense and/or supplementary tax should be effected immediately to accomplish improvements recommended in Recommendations 2 and 3. The Committee, therefore, recommends that not less than a \$.35 increase in the tax rate for current expense (regular current levy and/or supplementary tax) be requested via the County Commissioners to improve the instructional program.

Facilities

5. The Committee suggests that the following schools be eliminated:

Beaver Dam (to Hoffman)  
Cordova (to Rohanen)  
East Hamlet (to Fairview and others)  
Great Falls (see Recommendation 8)  
Pee Dee (see Recommendation 8)  
Fayetteville Street (to schools in area)

6. The Committee suggests that these schools be continued in use with a reduction of unsuitable classrooms and other facilities:

Unsuitable Spaces:

Ellerbe - 1922, 1927, and 1939 construction  
Hoffman - old school buildings  
Leak Street - classroom building #1 plus 1935 construction and additions  
Mineral Springs - eight primary classrooms  
Rohanen - 1926 building and cafeteria

7. The Committee suggests that the following schools be continued in use and expanded:

Monroe Avenue - add library and lunchroom  
Roberdel - increase the size to two teachers per grade

8. The Committee suggests that new construction or additions be made as follows:

High Schools: \*

One new high school in the Rockingham area for grades 10-12; provide dual transportation for high school pupils in the northern-most area.

(\*A bond referendum to construct one new high school between Rockingham and Hamlet was passed by Richmond County voters in the latter part of 1969.)

One new high school in the Hamlet area for grades 10-12; provide dual transportation for high school pupils in the Hoffman area.

Elementary Schools:

New elementary school, K-6, in the Rockingham area to house the Great Falls, Pee Dee, and the overcapacity pupils at L. J. Bell.

Addition for 200 pupils at Mineral Springs to house Ellerbe and Mineral Springs pupils in grades K-6.

Addition to Rohanen Elementary School.

9. The Committee recommends that the Board of Education request the Board of County Commissioners forthwith to hold a bond referendum for \$5,000,000 to provide funds for new construction and additions to be used in conjunction with the un-allocated 1963 Public School Facilities Fund amount of \$962,182.99 to accomplish the improvements suggested in this survey report.

If the money is secured for recommended improvements and these suggestions are followed by the Board, the following organization will result:

AREA I

New high school (10-12) in Rockingham area

Ellerbe (7-9)

Rockingham (7-9)

Rosenwald (K-6)

Mineral Springs (K-6)

Roberdel (K-6)

New elementary for Pee Dee, Great Falls and overcapacity  
at L. J. Bell (K-6)

Leak Street (K-6)

AREA II

New high school (10-12) in Hamlet area

Rohanen (7-9)

Hamlet Avenue (7-9)

Monroe Avenue (7-9) or (K-6)

Hoffman (K-6)

Capital Highway (K-6)

Fairview Heights (K-6)

Rohanen Elementary (K-6)

Ashley Chapel (K-6)

Ten years from now, the junior high schools should be replaced.

10. The investment in school facilities made by the citizens of Richmond County needs to be protected. It is imperative that more money be spent to maintain buildings in an adequate manner. The Committee therefore recommends that the Board of Education request additional annual capital outlay funds through an increase of \$.10 in: (1) the regular tax levy or by (2) a voted capital reserve fund to be used during the next ten-year period to: make renovations suggested in the engineering evaluation portion of this report; improve lighting, floors, boiler rooms, roofs, toilets, and to eliminate deficiencies shown in the facilities portion of the report; and purchase new and improve old equipment and furniture.

(The county has pledged its share of returns from the new sales tax to educational purposes.)

#### HAMLET SCHOOL FACILITIES

##### Capital Highway (Hoffman Road)

###### General Information:

Size of site - 4.6 acres  
Year built - 1942  
Grades housed - 1-6  
Number of reaches - 14  
Number pupils (membership - 361  
Pupil-staff ratio - 25.7-1

###### Construction Data:

Classrooms - general - 13 - fair  
Library - 2 - fair  
Music rooms - 0  
Art rooms - 0  
Teachers' lounge - 1  
Shop - 1 - fair  
Administrative space - 1 - fair  
Gymnasium - 0  
Auditorium - 1 - fair  
Kitchen - 1 - poor  
Dining - 1 - poor

#### **Engineering Evaluation:**

This plant, constructed in 1942, is semi-fire-resistive with masonry exterior walls and wood framed interior walls. Some spalling is occurring on the exterior walls and these walls are leaking causing the plaster to deteriorate. The mortar is also washing out of the exterior brickwork. The roof is leaking and some window frames are poor. The classrooms open into the auditorium and the basement area has nonfireproof ceilings; both items are in violation of the State Building Code. The heating and plumbing systems are operating satisfactorily at present; however, some plumbing fixtures are obsolete. The toilets need updating. The wiring and lighting are inadequate with a level of illumination of ten foot candles. The water and sewer systems are city connected. Major renovation will be required at this plant if it remains in service.

#### **Summary:**

Site - below minimum standards  
Classrooms - meet minimum standards  
Library - meets minimum standards  
Lunchroom - below minimum standards  
Auditorium - meets minimum standards  
Special facilities - meet minimum standards  
All facilities - poor to fair

### Fairview Heights (104 Hamilton Avenue)

#### **General Information:**

Size of site - 15 acres  
Year built - 1950  
Grades housed - 1-8  
Number of teachers - 28  
Number pupils (membership) - 761  
Pupil-staff ratio - 27.1-1

#### **Construction Data:**

Classrooms - general - 24 - fair  
Library - 1 - poor  
Music rooms - 0  
Art rooms - 0  
Multipurpose rooms - 1  
Teachers' lounge - 1  
Administrative space - 1 - fair  
Gymnasium - 0  
Auditorium - 1 - good  
Kitchen - 1 - good  
Dining - 1 - good

#### Engineering Evaluation:

This plant, constructed in 1950, is fire-resistive and generally acceptable. With a good floor cover applied and also with good maintenance, this plant should continue to serve for many years.

#### Summary:

Site - below minimum standards  
Classrooms - meet minimum standards  
Library - below minimum standards  
Lunchroom - meets minimum standards  
Auditorium - meets minimum standards  
Special facilities - meet minimum standards  
All facilities - poor to good

### Fayetteville Street (103 Fayetteville Street)

#### General Information:

Size of site - 4 acres  
Year built - 1926 addition: 1956  
Grades housed - 1-8  
Number of teachers - 9  
Number pupils (membership) - 227  
Pupil-staff ratio - 25.2-1

#### Construction Data:

Classrooms - general - 9 - 2 - good;  
6 - fair;  
1 - poor.

Library - 1-good  
Music rooms - 0  
Art rooms - 0  
Multipurpose rooms - 0  
Administrative space - 1 - fair  
Auditorium - 1 - fair  
Kitchen - 1 - good  
Dining - 1 - good

#### Engineering Evaluation:

The original building, constructed in 1926, is semi-fire resistive with masonry exterior walls and wood framed interior walls. The wood floors are worn badly in places and are unlevel due to differential settling. The supporting columns are not fireproof in the boiler room which is a code violation. The heating system is operating satisfactorily at present. The water and sewer systems are

city connected. The wiring and lighting are inadequate with the level of illumination varying from ten to fifteen foot candles. Due to the age of this building and its other deficiencies major renovation would be difficult to justify; therefore, it should be phased out of service.

The 1956 building is fire resistive and generally satisfactory except the lighting. The level of illumination varies from twenty to thirty foot candles. When the lighting is improved this building should serve satisfactorily for several years.

**Summary:**

Site - below minimum standards  
Classrooms - 1 below minimum standards;  
              - meet minimum standards  
Library - meets minimum standards  
Lunchroom - meets minimum standards  
Auditorium - meets minimum standards  
Special facilities - meet minimum standards  
All facilities -- fair to good

Hamlet Junior High (old name - Monroe Avenue)

**General Information:**

Size of site - 10 acres  
Year built - 1953 additions: 1963  
Grades housed - 7-8  
Number of teachers - 24  
Number pupils (membership) - 578  
Pupil-starr ratio - 24-1

**Construction Data:**

Classrooms - general - 14 - fair to good plus 1 mobile unit  
Library - 1 - poor  
Science labs - 2 - good  
Home economics rooms - 1 - good  
Commercial rooms - 0  
Music rooms - 2 - fair  
Art rooms - 0  
Multipurpose rooms - 1 - fair  
Teachers' lounge - 0  
Shop - 2 - poor  
Administrative space - 1 - fair  
Guidance space - 0  
Gymnasium - 0  
Cafetorium - 1 - fair

#### Engineering Evaluation:

This plant, constructed in 1953 and the 1963 addition, is fire resistive and is generally satisfactory except for wiring, lighting, and the shower-dressing area. The level of illumination varies from fifteen to twenty-five foot candles and poor lighting is due to the type of fixtures used. The shower-dressing area needs updating and the cracked wall in this area should be repaired and inspected for further movements. The water and sewer systems are city connected. With minor renovations and good maintenance this plant can serve for several years.

#### Summary:

Site - below minimum standards  
Classrooms - meet minimum standards  
Library - below minimum standards  
Lunchroom - meets minimum standards  
Special facilities - meet minimum standards  
All facilities - poor to good

### Hamlet High School (old name - Hamlet Avenue) (522 Hamlet Avenue)

#### General Information:

Size of site - 6 acres  
Year built - 1922 additions: 1940, 1958  
Grades housed - 9-12  
Number of teachers - 45  
Number pupils (membership) - 1025 (6-8, 390; 9-12, 635)  
Pupil-staff ratio - 22.7-1

#### Construction Data:

Classrooms - general - 27 - 1922 building - 21 - poor;  
1958 building - 6 - good  
Library - 1 - good  
Science labs - 2 - 1 - fair; 1 - good  
Home economics rooms - 1 - poor  
Commercial rooms - 3 - poor  
Music rooms - 1 - fair  
Art rooms - 0  
Language lab - 1 - fair  
Shop - 1 - fair  
Administrative space - 1  
Guidance space - 1 - fair  
Gymnasium - 1 - fair  
Dressing rooms - 3 - good  
Auditorium - 1 - fair  
Kitchen - 1 - fair  
Dining - 1 - fair

Engineering Evaluation:

The original building, constructed in 1922, is a three-story, semi-fire-resistive structure that has been well kept generally. The plaster is poor in the ceiling of the top floor. The level of illumination is low. If a school is continued at this site minor renovations to the building should permit it to remain in service.

The 1940 building is semi-fire-resistive with the shop and shower areas under the gymnasium. The ceilings are not fireproof in the basement and the stairways are wood; both items are code violations. The walls are cracked and should be repaired and watched for further movement. The roof is leaking also. The level of illumination varies from ten to fifteen foot candles in the classrooms and like areas. If this building is kept in service, major renovation is needed including shower-dressing facilities.

The 1958 building is fire-resistive and is generally satisfactory except for the level of illumination. This varies from twenty to twenty-five foot candles. The water and sewer systems are city connected. When this building has proper lighting installed, it should serve satisfactorily for several years.

Summary:

Site - below minimum standards  
Classrooms - meet minimum standards  
Library - meets minimum standards  
Lunchroom - meets minimum standards  
Gymnasium - meets minimum standards  
Auditorium - meets minimum standards  
Special facilities - meet minimum standards  
All facilities -- poor to good

(End of excerpts from the 1968 School Survey.)

The Planning Board fully backs a 6-3-3 grade system of schools for the county, with one high school and four junior high schools eventually to serve the county.

## RECREATION

The recreation program in Hamlet includes playground facilities at two public schools, Boyd's Lake, the Hamlet National Guard Armory, and Hamlet Municipal Park. A seven-member Hamlet Recreation Commission is in charge of the program. The staff is season and consists largely of school coaches.

Facilities at the two schools include basketball courts and a little league and pony league fields at Fairview Heights Elementary School. Both inside and outside basketball courts, two tennis courts, and table tennis facilities are available at Hamlet Avenue High Schools.

Boyd's Lake has picnic and rest area facilities and supervised beginner and advanced swimming lessons. Hamlet National Guard Armory has supervised indoor basketball, shooting, and physical fitness programs. Hamlet Municipal Park has a Babe Ruth League field, softball field, and a building for arts and crafts. The program is primarily one of seasonal supervised activities.

Private recreation facilities include horseback riding, City Lake boating, fishing and water skiing. The only regional type recreation in the area is the Laurinburg City Recreation Department year-round program which opens its facilities the whole year to the region, including Hamlet.

Hamlet appears to have fairly adequate recreation facilities -- with access to five public play areas and several private and semi-private facilities to offer variety. However, the city has very limited recreation facilities when attention is focussed on those which the city itself provides. The total land owned by

the city for recreation facilities (excluding the water area of the lake) is seven acres. Three of these acres are the Municipal Park, and four are at the lake. If the other facilities, including the county schools, were suddenly closed to the city's use it would find itself in poor condition. To correct this situation, the following is recommended.

#### Recommendations

The National Recreation Association recommends one acre of recreation space for each 100 residents. One acre for each 150 residents might be more realistic for Hamlet. To meet this standard the city would need approximately 37 acres of recreation land for today's needs. Additional land will be needed based on anticipated population growth. The city should use the 1970 and 1980 census to revise this recreation need as the figures become available.

Land should be purchased and reserved in several tracts to serve areas already considered lacking in recreation facilities. Such areas might include East Hamlet, Pinecroft, North Yard, and Central Hamlet.

Recreation programs need to be further developed to serve all of Hamlet's population -- young and old, black and white.

Along with providing more recreation areas, the city needs to progress from the talking stages to the actual construction of a central recreation building. As things are accomplished, the city will need the services of a full-time recreation director.

## MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are three major sources of medical attention available to residents of the Hamlet area: (1) Richmond County Health Center, (2) Richmond Memorial Hospital, and (3) Hamlet Hospital. Both Richmond County Health Center and Richmond Memorial Hospital are located in Rockingham. Hamlet Hospital is located on Vance Street near the center of the city.

### Richmond County Health Center

Richmond County Health Center is located in a one-story brick building just outside Rockingham at the intersection of Pickett Street and Rockingham Road. The building was constructed in 1957 and contains 4,000 square feet of floor space on a one-acre site. It has 3,000 square feet of parking space adjacent to the building.

The Center provides a number of preventive medicine and sanitation service on a scheduled basis. A doctor is shared half time with the Scotland County Health Department. In addition, the staff includes 2 sanitarians, 3 nurses, 1 dog warden, and 2 secretaries. Services rendered at the center include: eye examination and treatment; services of a psychiatric social worker; immunizations; maternal and infant clinic; planned parenthood clinic; orthopedic clinic; check clinic; certification of foodhandlers; X-ray; restaurant and dairy inspections; percolation tests for septic tank installations; testing of well water; advisory services for public water and sewage works.

### Richmond Memorial Hospital

Richmond Memorial Hospital is located at the intersection of Rockingham Road and Long Drive on a 20 acre site. The hospital was constructed in 1952 with revenues from a \$250,000 bond issue, and contained 50 beds until 1962 when an additional bond issue of \$150,000 increased its size to 80 beds. The hospital receives no financial help from Richmond County nor any of the municipalities in the county. Revenue comes from patient billings, federal and state aid, and bond issues.

The professional staff includes fourteen doctors, 10 of whom are general practitioners, 1 obstetrician, 2 surgeons and 1 radiologist. Other staff includes 35 registered nurses, 2 X-ray technicians, 5 laboratory technicians, 1 record librarian, and 5 practical nurses. The hospital administrator is appointed by a 16-member Board of Trustees who elect their successors.

The general physical condition of the hospital appears to be excellent. Since the 1962 expansion, the average occupancy rate has remained at approximately 75 per cent. Parking for both visitors and staff is adequate. The hospital site of 20 acres appears adequate for future expansion. The hospital administrator feels that this site could adequately house a 200-bed facility of more than double its capacity.

Even though the site size is adequate, the hospital site should be increased if for no other reason than to protect adjacent property from being used for incompatible uses. It should be noted that this site is but a few hundred feet from busy US 74 and that Long Drive itself is a major thoroughfare. Commercial development is already "stripping" along US 74 and could easily move along Long Drive and surround the hospital.

If the property were developed wisely, it could contain facilities such as doctors' and dentists' offices, special medical clinics, ambulance facilities, drug facilities, convalescence homes, and other medical arts facilities.

#### Recommendation

More property should be purchased by the hospital and reserved for medical arts facilities and future hospital expansion.

The City of Rockingham should annex the Long Drive area including the hospital and zone the area so as to protect it from incompatible uses. Extraterritorial jurisdiction is again possible in Richmond County by action of the 1969 Legislature.

#### Hamlet Hospital

Hamlet Hospital, a private facility, was established in 1920 and has had many additions since then. The site consists of a spacious 25 acres located on Vance Street near the heart of Hamlet. The building is considered structurally adequate by the hospital administrator. Parking is also adequate and there are no locational problems.

The hospital has 110 beds and 14 nursery beds. Hospital occupancy averages 70 per cent on a yearly basis. The staff consists of 83 employees and 50 professionals such as doctors, nurses, and technicians. The hospital's source of revenue is from patient billings. Hamlet Hospital also trains nurses, and is a vital asset to the region due to the local scarcity of such professional training.

Hamlet Hospital is a private facility and no recommendations are suggested for expansion although such plans are underway.

## LIBRARY SERVICE

The Hamlet area has access to the Rockingham-Richmond County Library and the Hamlet Public Library on Rice Street.

### Rockingham-Richmond County Library

Libraries in Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Rockingham and Richmond Counties combine to form the Sandhills Regional Library. Membership in this system makes the Rockingham-Richmond Library eligible for increased Federal and state aid, privileges of drawing from the State Library in Raleigh, and supplementary services such as film and record libraries. The Sandhill Regional Library collection numbers in excess of 75,000 books, with an annual circulation in excess of 60,000 in the Rockingham-Richmond County Library alone. Bookmobile service is provided over a regular 50-station route in the county, and circulates more than 20,000 books annually.

The local library is governed by a six-member board, three of whom are appointed by the Rockingham City Council, and three by the Richmond County Commissioners. Three of these members serve on a Regional Board -- two appointed by the county and one by the City of Rockingham.

In addition to Federal and state aid, the library is supported by non-tax resources in the county and a tax levy in Rockingham.

The library building was constructed during post depression days and was not intended to be used as a library; it has many problems relating to this use. The building is

located on the corner of Leak and Lawrence Streets and is two blocks from heavy pedestrian traffic in the central business district of Rockingham. The structure contains approximately 4,000 square feet of floor space, including the Regional Library offices. The weight of the book collection has caused the floor of the main reading room to sag. Supporting columns in the basement have cracked and are being gradually displaced outward as a consequence of the weight from above. Lighting is inadequate and parking for the staff and library users is very limited.

#### Recommendation

The City of Rockingham, Richmond County and the Regional Library Board should plan together to relocate the Regional Library. Funds should be appropriated in the 1970-71 budget of each body to commence this work; additional planning and construction funds should be sought from state and Federal sources through the 1966 Federal Library Services and Construction Act. It was suggested in the Rockingham Community Facilities Plan (and other plans) that the most desirable location for a new library would be in the central business district, preferably on the periphery of the urban renewal project area where it adjoins the Town Square.

#### Hamlet Public Library

The Hamlet Public Library is located on the corner of Rice Street and Minturn Avenue and is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The site is centrally located and is within walking distance of many residents of Hamlet. Parking is not available off street, but adequate parking is available on the curb since this is a large corner lot.

The building is a one-story brick structure erected in 1938 and remodeled in 1965. It is structurally sound. A basement is used as a children's library and has a separate outside entrance as well as an interior connecting stairway. The major problem with the building is lack of space. The primary need is for additional book stacks.

The library is supported financially by the City of Hamlet and is not a member of the Sandhills Regional Library; however, the library does use State Library facilities such as interlibrary loans of books and films. Most books are purchased through the state processing center.

The number of volumes currently available for circulation is 18,000, and the most recent annual circulation was 37,000 volumes.

Recommendation

The City should increase the size of the library so that it has adequate shelving space.

## CEMETERIES

The City of Hamlet owns and operates Mary Love Cemetery which is approximately 15 acres in size and is located on Oakland Avenue. Approximately three-fourths of the lots have been sold (about 90% of which have been used). Lots are sold for \$150 for eight graves and \$75 for four graves. The estimated cost of running the cemetery is \$3,500 annually. The city opens and closes graves for \$25. The city is investigating the purchase of land adjacent to the present site for future expansion.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the city analyze the cemetery situation closely to see if it is costing more than revenue received from the sale of lots. If such is the case, a revision in prices should be made.



# **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET**



## CAPITAL BUDGET

### INTRODUCTION

A capital budget is essentially a comprehensive listing of needed improvements with the amounts and sources of funds programmed for expenditure over a six-year period. It is primarily concerned with the municipality's capital outlay over this period for construction, remodeling or expansion of utility services and other physical facilities costing at least \$1,000; the purchase of land for community facilities; items of equipment costing at least \$1,000 and having a period of productivity of at least five years; and the cost of engineering, architectural and planning studies and surveys.

Unless the capital improvements budget is formally adopted, the program will have no legal status. Therefore, its value to Hamlet will be entirely dependent upon whether or not it is adhered to by city officials. The program is not a random listing of improvements that "could be used" but rather is a comprehensive itemization of needed improvements that will have a significant affect on the city's future.

### PURPOSE

The basic purposes and advantages of capital expenditure programming are:

1. Stabilization of the economic climate of the city is aided by helping investors, business and industrial managers and property owners more accurately gauge the future physical development and financial obligations of Hamlet.

2. Aids in assuring that the projects will be carried out in accordance with both predetermined priorities of need and the community's ability to pay for them.
3. Helps protect the city against the influence of groups seeking to advance various interest irrespective of the needs of the city.
4. Necessary tax revisions and required bond referendums can be foreseen and provisions can be made for the study of future tax revisions and the issuance of bonds.
5. Facilitates coordination of the city programs with those of other governmental agencies, and enables the various city departments to more efficiently schedule their operations, purchases of major equipment items, and expansion of facilities.
6. Lengthens the time available for proper technical design of needed community facilities.
7. Permits the advance acquisition of properties needed for improvements by purchase in a favorable market or the retention of tax delinquent land or unused city-owned property.
8. Enables the taxpayer to see what services he is receiving for his tax dollar and provides him with information on the total needs of the city so that he may intelligently vote on bond referendums.

The written program, however, is no assurance improvements will be made on a sound and logical basis. Although advantages are obvious in programming capital expenditures over a specified period of time, certain factors which will contribute to the program's significance must be assumed. These are:

- The citizens are willing to pay for equipment and facilities they deem desirable and necessary.
- State-collected, locally-shared taxes will not be materially decreased during the duration of the capital budget period.

- Legal limitations upon the city's ability and method of financing improvements will not change during the program period.
- No major economic fluctuations will occur, locally or nationally, during the scheduled program.
- The capital improvements budget will be reviewed and revised annually (if necessary) by the City Council and updated each year in order to perpetuate the program.

CITY OF HAMLET							Average Change per Yr. for 5 Years	Budget Est. 1969-70
Revenues:	Fiscal Year					Change 1964-69		
Item	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69			
Total Revenue	342,011	362,032	371,468	381,202	387,773			426,975
Change from previous year	58,792	20,021	9,436	9,734	6,571	45,762		39,202
Per Cent	21	6	3	3	2	12	7.0	10
<hr/>								
Expenditures:								
Item								
Total Exps.	318,769	337,151	357,386	386,695	368,201			426,975
Change from previous year	59,247	18,382	20,235	29,309	-18,494	49,232		58,774
Per Cent	23	6	6	8	-5	25	7.6	16

TEN YEAR FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE  
HAMLET, N.C.

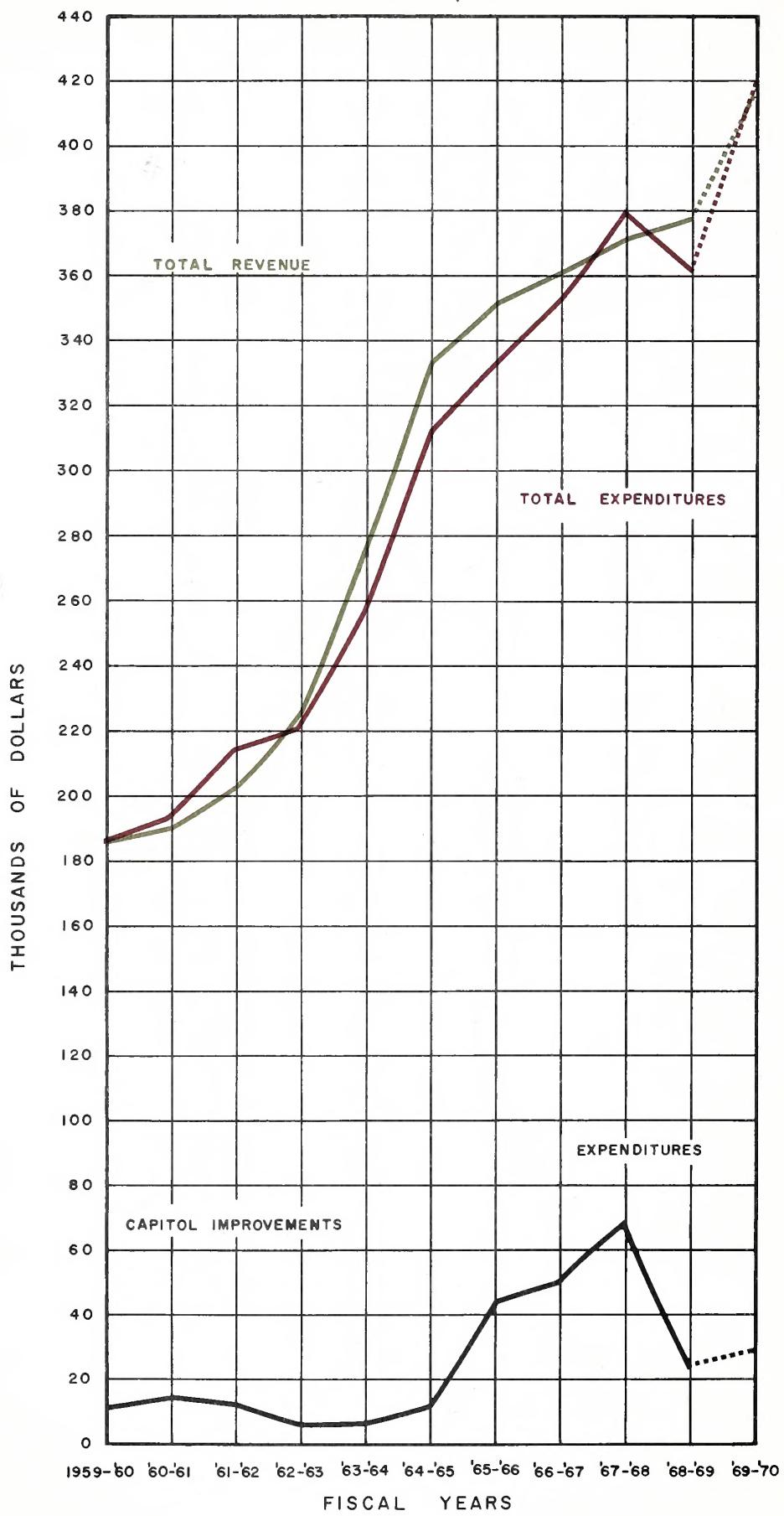


Fig. 2

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Average  
Change  
per Yr.  
for 5  
Years

Budget  
Estimated  
1969-70

Item	Fiscal Year					Change 1964-69		
	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69			
City Hall & General			1,834	2,792	2,727			1,700
Street & Sewer Equipment		7,101	11,117	5,722	5,451			6,500
Police Department		2,594	1,600	4,673	3,273			2,900
Fire Department		4,731		29,294	1,689			3,360
Library	901	1,590	2,222	2,055	1,655			1,379
Real Estate	1,260	2,100	2,000	5,700	5,036			3,230
Professional Consultation		2,675	2,600		2,600			1,550
Sewer Construction		14,966	23,216	3,385				
Streets & Highway Construction	7,148	8,553	7,244	12,835	2,000			4,875
Other	832	899	865					1,027
Total Expenditures	10,141	45,209	52,698	66,456	24,431	14,290		26,521
Per Cent Change	23	446	14	21	-272	58	11.6	8

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Financial trends of anticipated revenues are too diverse to project with any relative degree of accuracy. Increasing wages and construction costs, needed capital outlays, uncertainty of future annexations, operating expenses, increased, decreased or revalued assessed valuations on taxable properties, etc., present too many complexities to make reasonable projections -- which are by necessity based on past trends. It therefore becomes necessary to design the capital budget on the basis of need, availability and source of funding, and willingness to pay for needed improvements. These general conclusions can be made from the accompanying fiscal data.

- The absolute rate of revenue increase has declined over the past five years, but each year's increase taken together shows an overall stability which just about matches inflationary retail and personal income trends.
- Revenue for the present fiscal year is estimated to sharply reverse this declining trend, and anticipated sales tax returns in the years to come should increase total revenues even more.
- The rise of overall total expenditures has been slightly higher than that of revenues, but when averaged together over the past five years, expenditure increase matches revenue increase almost exactly.
- Capital expenditures, however, have fluctuated much more than either revenues or total expenditures, from a 446% increase high in 1965-66, to a 272% decrease low in 1968-69. The overall increase of 11.6% for the five comparison years is only slightly higher than the nationwide inflationary increase for all capital projects.

Therefore, with regard to the rate of capital expenditure at least, it would appear obviously desirable to program capital spending for the next six years (1) at a rate between the highs and low recorded, (2) in an amount that will provide procurement of the most necessary capital projects, and (3) at a level the city can afford.

In terms of financing future capital projects, the major dependence would seem to rest on current general revenues almost entirely.

The ad valorem tax rate stands at \$1.37, plus an additional \$.33 for debt service. Since an unusually large proportion of property owners are living on fixed incomes, a tax raise in the immediate future is not considered advisable.

Hamlet's bonded indebtedness (\$1,188,000 authorized on an assessed valuation of \$11,000,000 in July, 1969, according to the Local Government Commission) cannot legally increase significantly for a number of years, and even if it could, bond market interest rates are too high to make borrowing advisable in anything but an emergency at this time. (\$600,000 in unsold water bonds are not considered salable by the Local Government Commission because of the 6% interest ceiling attached to them unless another referendum is passed to raise the interest rate.) Neither is general obligation bond financing, therefore, considered as a source of financing in this proposed capital budget.

Returns from the sales tax voted in Richmond County this November can be expected to increase total revenues, but there is no way at this time to predict by how much.

#### PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

By financial necessity, capital projects proposed for fiscal years 1970-76 are few and should be of the highest priority.

Since many other capital improvements are needed, and the increase in revenue from the sales tax is forthcoming but unpredictable, a list of supplementary projects is included for use if and when they can be financed.

To even the amount needed for capital expenditures each year, the formation of a capital reserve of funds is recommended for certain larger projects. In certain cases, Federal grant assistance may be anticipated based on the type of program and past indications of willingness to assist -- for example, utilization of Federal funds to help purchase and develop recreation areas, public safety projects, etc.

Since both water and sewer system improvements would require the sale of general obligation bonds, neither type of improvement is recommended here. In view of (1) the pressing need for expanded water supply listed in the Community Facilities Plan; (2) the source, treatment, and storage additions that would have to be made to insure an adequate water supply for the entire planning period; and (3) the limited supply of funding available; it is felt that the better alternative would be to become part of the proposed countywide water and sewer systems.

Some increase in street lighting was recommended in the Community Facilities Plan, but without a survey by Carolina Power and Light Company, there is no way of determining a cost range for this type of improvement.

Thoroughfare Plan implementation realistically becomes a part of Hamlet's overall capital improvements, so it is a goal to be kept constantly in mind and continually pursued. These projects remain to be completed:

1. Widen NC 177 at both northern and southern edges of the corporate limits for a length of one-half mile.
2. Complete the western section of SR 1903.
3. Complete the eastern section of SR 1903 extension and join to SR 1615 and provide a grade separation at the Seaboard Railroad crossing.
4. Connect SR 1811 and SR 1608 and provide a grade separation at Seaboard Railroad crossing.
5. Construct a bypass as proposed around west and south Hamlet.

All of these roads are the responsibility of the State Highway Commission, although Hamlet will eventually be expected to participate to some degree in joint city-state financing for acquisition of new right-of-way.

The costs programmed in the capital budget are estimates. Strict adherence to the estimates contained herein is therefore inadvisable as they are guidelines obtained to facilitate general capital budgeting. Although estimating costs six years in the future involves too much uncertainty to depend entirely on the estimate for final financial programming, it does afford the governing body the opportunity to anticipate the general affect needed improvements will have on future annual operating budgets.

Project need and related priority have been determined through analysis of the Community Facilities Plan.

The following is a list of each recommended improvement project, indicating estimated cost, source of funds, and fiscal year(s) of implementation. Justification for each project may be found by turning to the page reference noted in the Community Facilities Plan (CFP). Line item numbers are assigned to avoid detailing each recommendation a second time in the Capital Improvements Budget Table.

<u>Line Item Number</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>CFP Page Number</u>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>		
1	Replace one pumper truck	11 & 9
	PROJECT COST: \$35,000	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1973-76	
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		
2	Replace one patrol car annually	14
	PROJECT COST: \$11,550	
	( \$1,750 each plus 3% per year)	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1970-76	
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>		
3	Purchase additional refuse packer	26
	PROJECT COST: \$12,360	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1970-71	
4	Replace existing bulldozer	26
	PROJECT COST: \$19,620	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1971-72	
5	Replace existing refuse packer	26
	PROJECT COST: \$13,440	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1972-73	
6	Capital Reserve Fund to replace inadequate public works garage and maintenance facilities by construction of new facility on city-owned land at the sewage treatment plant site. This should include indoor garage (40'x60"), maintenance workshop, and office space, as well as a (160'x40") covered parking area for vehicles; paving, fencing, and outdoor lighting as necessary	
	PROJECT COST: \$50,000	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1970-75	

\*Community Facilities Plan

<u>Line Item Number</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>CFP Page Number</u>
(Public Works continued)		
7	Replace one dump truck	26
	PROJECT COST: \$6,630	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1970-76	
PUBLIC WORKS - STREETS		
8	Thoroughfare implementation -- City share of NC 74 project to State Highway Commission (already committed)	31
	PROJECT COST: \$8,400 (\$2,800 each year)	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1970-72	
9	Pave road to sewage treatment plant along its 1300-foot length	30
	PROJECT COST: \$3,000	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1972-73	
10	Pave Bridges Street for 1500 feet (tar and gravel, no curb and gutter)	30
	PROJECT COST: \$3,500	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1973-74	
11	Seal new pavement on treatment plant road	30
	PROJECT COST: \$1,200	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1974-75	
12	Seal new pavement on Bridges Street	30
	PROJECT COST: \$1,350	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1975-76	
13	Routine resurfacing of streets	30
	PROJECT COST: \$30,500	
	SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	
	FISCAL YEARS: 1970-76	

<u>Line Item Number</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>CFP Page Number</u>
	LIBRARY	
14	<p>Increasing annual appropriation for books, periodicals, and new program additions          (To provide better working collection and greater variety of service)</p> <p>PROJECT COST: \$15,000</p> <p>SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue</p> <p>FISCAL YEARS: 1970-76</p>	
	RECREATION	
15	<p>Begin acquisition of additional recreation sites while land is still available in Pinecroft and North Yard          (Assistance funds from Recreation Division, N.C. Department of Local Affairs, and Federal Agencies may be available for this)</p> <p>PROJECT COST: \$40,000</p> <p>SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue</p> <p>FISCAL YEARS: 1970-74 and 1975-76</p>	45
16	<p>Remodeling and equipping of vacated public works building at City Lake for use as a recreation building          (Assistance funds from Recreation Division, N.C. Department of Local Affairs may be available for this and exterior improvements)</p> <p>PROJECT COST: \$10,000</p> <p>SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue</p> <p>FISCAL YEARS: 1974-75</p>	
17	<p>Necessary landscaping and installation of outdoor play facilities around City Lake recreation building (to include tot lot, tree planting, picnic facilities, tennis courts, etc.)</p> <p>PROJECT COST: \$10,000</p> <p>SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue</p> <p>FISCAL YEARS: 1975-76</p>	27 & 45

SUPPLEMENTARY PROJECTS \*

<u>Line Item Number</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>CFP Page Number</u>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>		
S1	Services of an architect in order to draw plans for a new fire station PROJECT COST: \$20,000 SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	11 & 12
S2	Build new fire station PROJECT COST: \$200,000 SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	11 & 12
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		
S3	Renovation of vacated fire department space for use by Police Department and other city offices. Federal Assistance might be forthcoming by that time as part of the Law Enforcement Planning Grants, provided the renovation was the most pressing need of the department PROJECT COST: \$6,000 SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	15
<b>PUBLIC WORKS - SEWER</b>		
S4	Capital reserve payments from current revenue to provide money for further sewer system improvements beyond capital budget period PROJECT COST: As revenues permit SOURCE OF FUNDS: Current Revenue	22-4

\*See explanation, page 60.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TABLE

Line Number	Department/ Function and Project	Item	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	Total 6-Year Cost	Source of Funds <sup>2</sup>
1	<u>Fire Dept.</u> Pumper, replacement (Capital Reserve)	R					10,000	15,000	10,000	CR
2	<u>Police Dept.</u> Annual patrol car replacement	R	1,800	1,850	1,900	1,950	2,000	2,050	11,550	CR
	<u>Public Works</u>									
6	Garage & yard (Cap. Res.)	R	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	CR
7	Dump truck	R	1,030	1,060	1,090	1,120	1,150	1,180	6,630	CR
4	Bulldozer	R	19,620						19,620	CR
5	Packer	R			13,440				13,440	CR
3	Purchase additional Packer	N	12,350						12,350	CR
	<u>Public Works</u>									
	<u>Streets:</u>									
8	NC 74 project (SHC)	N	2,800	2,800	2,800				8,400	CR
9	Pave Treatment Plant Road	N			3,000				3,000	CR
11	Seal Treatment Plant Road	N					1,200		1,200	CR
10	Pave Bridges Street Seal Bridges	N				3,500			3,500	CR
12	Street Routine resurfacing	R	5,000	5,000	2,000	4,500	7,000	7,000	30,500	CR

<sup>1</sup> R - Replacement; N - New or additional<sup>2</sup> CR - Current Revenue; FS - Federal and/or State grant assistance

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TABLE

Line Item Number	Department / Function and Project	Item <sup>1</sup>	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-65	Total 6-Year Cost	Source of Funds <sup>2</sup>
14	<u>Library</u>									
	Books, periodicals, and programs	N	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	15,000	CR
15	<u>Recreation</u>									
	Site acquisition	N	10,000	3,000	10,000	10,000		7,000	40,000	CR(FS)
16	City Lake Recreation Building	N					10,000		10,000	CR(FS)
17	City Lake landscaping	N						10,000	10,000	CR(FS)
	<b>TOTAL</b>		44,980	45,330	46,730	43,570	49,350	41,580	271,540	

